



WINDBLOWN PLASTIC BAGS— Winds whirl plastic bags from the city's landfill on the Beam Road across the fence and litter the surrounding tundra, creating not only an eyesore but also hazard for wildlife.

Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

The Nome Nugget

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Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

HAPPY NEW YEAR NOME — Nome welcomes 2006 with a sparkling array of fireworks.

BSRHA sorting out financial mess

By Diana Haecker

Allegations of mismanagement, nepotism and money squandering surfaced in late November as Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority employees were laid-off and informed that their insurances are no good.

Ever since then, the 11 furloughed employees in Nome and more in the villages experienced

everything from anger to frustration and in some instances depressive bouts to deal with the fact that they were out of a job and a steady income with the holiday season around the corner.

Attempts to file for unemployment were delayed until inconsistencies with the Labor and Workforce department were cleared

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Council delays decision on prohibiting plastic bags

By Ted Meyer

At the December 28 noontime Nome Common Council meeting, the Council delayed final approval of an ordinance that would prohibit plastic bags used for carry out in retail business. The proposed ordinance was submitted by Councilman Jon Larson as a result of plastic bags being the primary source of wind blown litter, and creating a significant problem that

increases operational costs at the landfill. Plastic bags are blown from the landfill and deposited on surrounding lands impacting property owners and causing an unsightly environment. Previous proposed bans on plastic bags have been unsuccessful.

During the Citizen Comment Period, resident Sterling Golgergen approached the Council

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Jane Doe 2 takes on the Catholic Church, Jesuits; Father Poole dismissed

By Diana Haecker

In an effort to dismiss the civil lawsuit brought forth by a woman under the pseudonym Jane Doe 2 against Jesuit priest James Poole, the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska and the Jesuits, the defendants failed to convince Superior

Court Judge Ben Esch to grant their motion for summary judgement.

Esch wrote an order and memorandum last month that granted the defendant's motion for summary judgement and thereby dismissed the claims of sexual assault and sex-

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State dismisses charges against Owens; Svobodny turns to cold cases

By Diana Haecker

On December 22, the state's lead prosecutor Rick Svobodny dismissed the third count of the original indictment against Matthew Owens dealing with official misconduct. A separate charge of violations of conditions of release was dismissed at the same time.

Svobodny was not available for comment before at press time.

Svobodny just recently was designated as the State's first Cold Case Homicide prosecutor. The State Troopers and the Department of Law have launched a comprehensive homicide investigation and

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Letters

Dear All,

It's time to start considering the pros and cons of forming a borough government.

The price of gold is over \$515 and the market forces that drove the price up appear likely to remain unchanged for a while. Nova Gold's prospects to do well at Rock Creek and Big Hurrah look very good. That will probably incite the politicians in Juneau to once again push for borough formation for those rural school districts that have resources to tax. Nova Gold would be that resource. That could mean a legislatively mandated Bering Strait Borough. Such a borough would alleviate some of the educational support burden the State carries in supporting the Bering Strait School District. Getting the non-taxing

Letters to the Editor must be signed and include an address and phone number

Editorial

Harness the wild bags

We are responsible for our environment. We must keep our land clean and our animals free from harm. Nome is surrounded by spectacular scenic beauty that is unspoiled by careless human actions. However when we take a drive past the Nome Landfill we can register nothing but disgust. There are plastic bags flying everywhere.

There are tan bags and white bags, a few pink and green and blue and all are ugly. Plastic bags line the fence around the landfill and for about a mile radius from the landfill are festooned on every willow and shrub and even on the power lines and utility poles. They are air born and bounce and flit over the tundra like an errant critter riding the wind. They seem to take on a life of their own as they position themselves along both sides of the road and keep out of reach of the dump master and his clean up crew. There was a day not too many years ago when the grocery stores in Nome did not use plastic bags. We carried our groceries home in paper bags (some of them had handles). Our grocery stores decided to save expenses by switching to the lighter weight plastic bags and maybe they had the idea of saving a tree or two. However trees are renewable resources and paper is biodegradable. Plastic stays with us for what seems like an eternity. The paper bag will also not allow cans of beans and bags of apples to escape and roll around in the back of the car. Of course we have the option of carrying a canvas tote bag or two in which to haul our bread and milk home. Nome stores have also offered to reclaim our plastic bags but we don't seem to take them up on their offer. We could even take them to the store for our own re-use. We don't.

We need to solve the plastic bag problem. This is not like rocket science. This just involves the will to do something that may be a bit inconvenient but certainly not an insurmountable challenge. We really can do without the plastic. And while we are contemplating a solution why not go full force and separate our recyclable glass, metal and paper products when we put our trash out for collection? Other communities require such action. We need to accept responsibility and clean up our messes. We need to follow our good intentions with positive action. —N.L.M.—

“ Every man feels instinctively that all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.” *Rousseau and the Sentimentalists* by James Russell Lowell. 1819-1891

rural areas to carry their own weight up to the same extent the self-taxing boroughs do, is a goal of the urban dominated State Legislature.

We could let that happen, or we could cause a different scenario to unfold. We could create a Nome Gold Rush Borough, and tax that resource for our Borough's benefit. I am not hot on the idea of creating another layer of government and suffering more control, but if we must have a borough, I'd rather it be formed by and benefit our local population. If we allow a Bering Strait Borough to form and take in the Nome gold province, our local property would be taxed by the borough for the benefit of all within the borough, while the non-taxable property in the villages would remain untaxed. The result would be Nome and Nova Gold becoming the cash cow for the borough. We'd end up paying more and getting less. That idea should be repugnant to most Nomeites.

One alternative would be a Nome Gold Rush Borough that includes all of the historical Nome gold province and extends southward to the center of the Norton Sound. That would essentially be all of the drainages on the Seward Peninsula that do not drain into the Chukchi Sea, the Kotzebue Sound or Norton Bay. Such a borough would extend from Cape Darby northward to the Continental Divide and westward to Cape Mountain. That would include the Cape Nome, Kougarok, Noxapaga, Casadepaga, Ophir, Solomon, Boston, Bluff, Bonanza, Eldorado, Cripple, Iron Creek, American, Bluestone and York mining districts. That would include the abandoned mining camps of York, Coarse Gold, Taylor, Aurora, Little Hurrah, Boulder, Noxapaga, Boston, Ophir, Dahl, Davidson's Landing, Bering, Sullivan, and others. It would also include the currently unorganized communities of Banner, Dexter, Tripple Creek, Dry Creek, Snake River, Council, and Solomon. And it would include the organized villages of Brevig Mission, Teller, Golovin, and White Mountain.

Another alternative would be a truncated Gold Rush Borough that starts at Cape Woolley, takes in the Sinuk drainage as its western boundary, continues northward to take in the Cobblestone drainage, goes northward across Imuruk Basin and continues northward following the thread of the American River to the Continental Divide,

then following the Continental Divide eastward to the Noxapaga River, then following the thread of the Noxapaga River southward across the Kuzitrin River and through the pass through the Bendeleben Mountains following the thread of the Paragon River to the Fish River, then following the Fish River down to the Fox River, then continuing southward to include Bluff, then continuing into the Norton Sound southward to the 64th parallel, then westward to longitude 168 degrees west, then back to Cape Woolley. This formation would include most of the Nome gold province while avoiding Teller, Brevig Mission, Golovin, White Mountain and the King Island interests at Woolley Lagoon. However, since a Borough requires two or more organized govern-

ments, one of the communities lying outside of and near Nome would need to organize into a municipal government.

If we want a Nome Gold Rush Borough that does not include any Bering Strait School District villages, then we need to convince a nearby community to organize. Perhaps Solomon or Council? Another way to create a Nome Gold Rush Borough that does not include a Bering Strait School District village, assuming none want to join us in forming a borough, would be to get the Legislature to pass legislation allowing us to form a Borough that takes in only one municipal government.

If we do organize a borough, it would be prudent to follow Yakutat

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Ulu News

Senator Donald C. Olson
Phone: (907) 465-3707 Fax: (907) 465-4821
Website: <http://www.akdemocrats.org>

I begin this year by wishing that all of you are blessed with good health and happiness throughout 2006. Secondly, Willow and I want to express our appreciation for the many congratulations, best wishes, and kind thoughts we have received from many of you upon our marriage. Thank you very much.

The coming session of the legislature begins on Monday, January 9. I will be keeping you informed and commenting on the major developments during the session here in the Ulu News.

The gas line negotiations and potential contract is still the major issue confronting the legislature. The main difference between the start of this legislature and last year, however, is the amount of surplus funds that have come into the treasury from the high price of our crude oil. It is estimated that there is \$1.2 billion in additional revenues for our current fiscal year whose budget we just finished 7 months ago. Revenues should be up also for next year's spending budgets. As a result, there are a lot ideas floating around on what we should do with these extra funds.

The Governor announced that the budget proposals he will be recommending to the legislature include \$400 million for a down payment on part-ownership of the gas line and another \$500 + million to forward fund education programs. Another proposal being worked on and discussed by legislators is re-establishing some sort of revenue sharing to sustain our municipal governments and their operations. An outstanding education issue held over from last year is changing the area differential factor in education funding to better reflect the cost differences that exist between all school districts. This has become a big urban versus rural issue.

Perhaps the most pressing issue is how to bring some relief to individual Alaskans from their high energy costs. It just seems fair that some of the state's bonanza from high oil prices should be used to ease the pain of the increased costs to individual Alaskan energy consumers. Here, I expect a number of proposals to be discussed and pursued.

Of course, whenever there are revenue surpluses, the capital budget gets special attention. This is because spending on roads, airports, schools, and the like is one-time only spending. It does not ordinarily carry a year after year need like program spending in the operating budget. As such, capital spending is usually preferred when the surplus is expected to last only for a short period.

Finally, I am introducing legislation that would put \$500 million of the surplus into the principle of the Permanent Fund. This follows a long standing tradition of previous legislatures that in a time of plenty, put some of it into the people's investment savings account. Here it will stay and accrue to benefit every Alaskan's dividend on into the future.

Illegitimus non carborundum

The Nome Nugget

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P.O. Box 610 - Nome Alaska, 99762
(907) 443-5235 fax (907) 443-5112
e-mail: nugget@nomenugget.com
ads: jayp@nomenugget.com
classified and legal ads: jayp@nomenugget.com
subscriptions: jayp@nomenugget.com

Nancy McGuire
Janet Ahmasuk
Ted Meyer
Jay Peterson

editor and publisher
nancym@nomenugget.com
staff reporter
staff reporter
advertising manager
circulation/distribution/
production
jayp@nomenugget.com
photography
photography
photography
production
sports
unique_fu_64@hotmail.com
Webmaster
photos@nomenugget.com

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Weather Statistics					
Sunrise	01/03/06	11:54 a.m.	High Temp	28°	12/31/05
	01/11/06	11:42 a.m.	Low Temp	-10°	01/03/06
			Peak Wind	30mph	N/12-27-05
Sunset	01/03/06	04:21 p.m.	Precip. to Date	0.00	
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•More Letters

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Borough's lead and take in the adjoining continental shelf. The continental shelf contains oil, gas and fisheries, which might prove beneficial at some later date.
I hope this stimulates some thought and conversation.
George Krier
Nome, AK 99762

Dear Editor,
This letter is addressed to the

people who remove snow with their privately owned backhoes or loaders. When dumping snow onto a snow hill, **please, please** lookout for children playing.
I've been watching these kids make tunnels in these big snow hills. Last weekend (12/17/05) my neighbor decided to plow his driveway and started dumping snow onto this hill where my child was, it's a good thing I was out there to holler at him to move.

So please, when dumping snow look for children playing. Thank you,
Dilly Adsuna
Nome, AK

To Native Corporations of Nome area,
Through grants from the Native corporations and the State of Alaska, Nome Eskimo Community and help from a few close friends, I had gone to Kotzebue to further my education for my well being. So I thought.... Well I passed at my courses, got all my certificates, diplomas, First Aid cards and what-not from Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue.

I finished school last May, and looked for jobs all over this region. The only job I could get was when John Handeland stopped me in his truck on the street on August 10, 2005. I started work on August 11. My point is this, all the Building Maintenance work I had applied for or asked about was filled by someone who is not from here in the region, let alone from within this State.

My question is why send a local Native to school, spend \$10,500 on education and any Native corporations do not hire him? I mean, after I made it to ATC I had sent all my sponsors a Thank You letter and told them I would hope to find a job with one of the Native corporations. But they made a liar out of themselves. Strange how the Native corporations learned from other races on this planet earth. Strange!?
George S. Minix
Nome, AK

A Look at the Past



Photo courtesy of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum/ Arthur Bell Collection
1908 winter scene on the Waterfront, Nome, ALASKA — The John J. Sesnon Lighterage Company used this aerial apparatus during the summer months to lift barge freight from ship to shore. Located near the present day Northwest Campus, you can still see the remnants of this wharf during low tide. The Lacey was a popular gambling saloon of the time. Card sharks would jump out the trap door in the floor and onto the beach when the police attempted to bust up the illegal game.

STILL MISSING • REWARD OFFERED

To date there has still been no sign of Ernest Saccheus reported missing 9/23/87, Archie Henry, Jr. reported missing 10/27/98, Eric “Mac” Apatiki, 21, who was last seen October 4, 2004 near the Polaris Hotel. Anyone with information should call the Nome Police Department at 443-5262 or the NPD Crime Line at 443-7804 or the Alaska State Troopers at 443-5525 or 1-800-443-2835.
BSNC, Kawerak, NSHC, the City of Nome, Golovin Native Corporation, Sivuqaq Inc., the City of Unalakleet, and Wales Native Corporation have established a reward fund for first hand information leading to the closure, arrest or prosecution of individuals responsible for missing persons/unsolved deaths in Nome. The fund is at \$17,000 and growing. If you have any knowledge of what happened in any of the cases, please call the Nome Police Department at 907-443-5262. If you would like assistance with the process, call Kawerak at 907-443-5231. Also, Kawerak is requesting photographs of the following people: Beverly Immingan, Aurora Escholt, James Moses, Donald Adams, Nathan Anungazuk, Ward Olanna, Mathew Towarak, Elmer Campbell Jr., Justina Kunayak, Olin Apatiki, Jeffrey Komonaseak, Lancelot Immergan, Ivadell Kazingnak, and Raleigh Iyapana. If you have a photograph, please send it to: Kawerak, Inc, P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 5 — January 11, 2006

EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, January 5		
School in session		
Boys and Girls Basketball to Point Hope/January 5 through January 7		
*Nome Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Tennis	Nome Rec Center	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon - 5 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	noon - 1 p.m.
*Kinder Swim	Pool	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Knowing the Unborn Video	Prematernal Homee	1:30 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Boys & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*14 Steps to bettery Breastfeeding	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*NNST	Pool	3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Power Hour/ Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Resistance Training	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Crafts/ Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Step Aerobics	Nome Rec Center	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
*Tae Bo	Pool	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
HomeChoice Workshop (See ad.)	Nome Eskimo Hall	6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
ICANS	XYZ	7 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*AA T.N.T.	Catholic Church	7:30 p.m.
Friday, January 6		
Last Day for Spring Registration/NWC		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/ KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*Nome Visitor Center	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Nome Rec Center	10 am - noon
*Tae Bo	Nome Rec Center	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	noon - 5 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 6 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 2 p.m.
*Your Baby's Hearing Test Video	Prematernal Home	1:30 p.m.
*Knowing the Unborn Video	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*Boys & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Power Hour/ Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	cancelled
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Friday Candlelite	Bahai Faith Center	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.) 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 7		
Front Street		closed
Front Street		closed
NSHC		10 a.m. - noon
Pool		10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Kegoayah Library		noon - 6 p.m.
Nome Elementary		2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Prematernal Home		2:30 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Pool		3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Prematernal Home		4 p.m.
Pool		5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Catholic Church		8 p.m.
Sunday, January 8		
Kegoayah Library		closed
Front Street		closed
Front Street		closed
TBA		1 p.m.
Prematernal Home		1:30 p.m.
Pool		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Rec Center		2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Munaqsi		2 p.m.
Prematernal Home		2 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m
443-5630 for directions		4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Pool		5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		7 p.m.
Monday, January 9		
Front Street		closed
Nome Rec Center		5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Pool		6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Pool		8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Front Street		9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		10 a.m. - noon
Kegoayah Library		noon - 8 p.m.
Pool		noon - 1 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		noon - 1 p.m.
Covenant Church		noon
Pool		12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Prematernal Home		1:30 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Teen Center		2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Prematernal Home		2 p.m.
Pool		3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
CAMP Dept./ NSHC		3 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Pool		6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Channel 4		6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers		7 p.m.
Council Chambers		7 p.m.
Bible Baptist Church		7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Catholic Church		8 p.m.
Tuesday, January 10		
Nome Rec Center		5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Pool		8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Front Street		9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Kegoayah Library		10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Nome Rec Center		11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Front Street		noon - 5 p.m.
Kegoayah Library		noon - 8 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		noon to 1 p.m.
Prematernal Home		1:30 p.m.
Pool		1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Teen Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Prematernal Home		2 p.m.
Pool		3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Pool		5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Nome Elementary School		5:30 p.m.
Bering & Seppala		5:30 - 7 p.m.
Mini-Convention Center		6:30 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Pool		7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
1-877-751-8040		7 p.m.
Council Chambers		7 p.m.
Wednesday, January 11		
Nome Rec Center		5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Pool		6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Pool		8 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Front Street		9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		10 a.m. - noon
Nome Rec Center		11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Prematernal Home		11:30 a.m.
Nome Rec Center		noon - 1 p.m.
Front Street		noon to 2 p.m.
Kegoayah Library		noon to 5 p.m.
Polar Cafe		noon - 8 p.m.
Nazarene Church		noon
Pool		1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Teen Center		2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Prematernal Home		3 p.m.
Pool		3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Prematernal Home		3:30 p.m.
Boys & Girls Club		5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Pool		6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		6:15 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Nome Rec Center		7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Baha'i Center		7:30 p.m.
Nome Visitors Center		7:30 p.m.

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GOLD COAST CINEMA



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7 p.m.

Aeon Flux (PG13)
9:30 p.m.



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443-5235, to be included in the Community Calendar. Deadline is Monday, noon.
Community Calendar sponsored by Bering Air, 443-5464

•More Letters

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I stayed and continued to teach and was the team’s basketball coach. Yes, I even sang in the Methodist Church Choir.

A couple of my former students—I hear from them all the time—still live in Nome. At that time they were Catherine (Girly) Amarok, and I even had Chuckie Fagerstrom and a couple of his sisters who later passed away (Lucy and Suzanne). I never had Ruthie or Gert, because they were in high school.

I still hear from Vic Karmun, who resides in Kotzebue. Believe it or not, he calls me at least once a month, as he hates to write. He also calls me Mr. Williams.

I also hear from my former student, at the time I was in, Nome, Arlene Ranstead and her sister Janet Abbe. When they were my students, their name was Mueller.

Also taught “Girly’s” sister, who now lives in Kenai. I didn’t teach him, but Ronnie Engstrom was a good friend of mine. When I coached the basketball team for two years I had Arlene and Janet’s brother Jackie, who has since passed away. Their brother Billie was in the fifth grade while I was there.

I still either hear by mail or by

phone from Ann Whipple, who is a retired court clerk and now lives in Anchorage.

When I left Nome, I was going to Guam to teach, but I got back to Portland, found out my dad had suffered a stroke. He couldn’t walk or talk for 10 years, and I ended up teaching in Estacada, which is a logging community some 48 miles southeast of Portland. I was there for 20 years.

When I was up in Nome, I wrote for the *Nugget*, and when I was in Estacada I had a column in our *Clackamas County News*. I was a volunteer fireman, and the column contained the most weekly fires and a sketch of many of our firemen.

While I taught in Estacada, one of my students was my paperboy, and he also, like Vic, still calls me Mr. Williams!

The main reason for writing is that I got a “mini-subscription” from Ann Whipple and I just thought I would introduce myself to you.

I don’t know anyone there of course on the *Nugget* staff, but the names Fagerstrom and Karmun kind of ring a bell. Remember, I had a Karmun in class, and then came across Fagerstrom.

I never hear from them, but I had

George Kost and Vernon Carlson. No doubt there are many, many others, but I don’t want to bore you

Village News
By Janet Ahmasuk

WALES

If anybody has wondered what happened to the intrepid world class extreme walkers Dimitri and Carl who passed through Nome a couple of weeks ago on their way to walking across the Bering Strait — here is an update as of last Friday via Dan and Ellen Richard in Wales, who received an e-mail from the pair.

They have had quite an adventure so far. Dimitri nearly lost fingers due to severe level three frostbite after they camped out on the shore ice near Cape Douglas. Dimitri had to fly back to Nome for frostbite treatment of his fingers. The ice cut loose, floating them 30 miles out to sea, and they were eventually rescued by Evergreen Helicopter.

Carl fell over a cliff and into a crevasse somewhere along the way and was pinned down for 36 hours.

They spent some time hiding from a vicious north wind when temperatures dropped to -30° to -42° F. They left Nome on a clear, cold day, arriving in Teller seven days later.

According to Wales residents Ellen and Dan Richard, there are 10-11 boxes at the Wales post office awaiting the adventurers’ arrival in a few days. Carl and Dimitri plan to walk across the Bering Strait to Siberia and around the world and have some sort of wet suit available if they fall in the water or have to swim from ice floe to ice floe to get across to the other side. Brrr! (*Editor’s note: see rescue story this issue.*)

anymore.

Thought I’d let you know.

Sincerely,

Herb Williams

597 N. Dekum St. Apt. 417
Portland, OR 97217-1971

Novagold meets with
Chamber
to discuss supply needs

By Ted Meyer

Nome Chamber of Commerce Director Mitch Erickson invited Warren Woods, mine manager for Novagold’s Rock Creek Project, to a chamber luncheon on February 7 to meet with local businesses and discuss the services and supplies that will be needed by the company during mining operations. Erickson’s purpose of the meeting was to introduce Woods to the business community with the intent of developing business relationships. An estimated \$13.5 million in consumables could potentially be provided by local businesses. Erickson wanted to make sure businesses are aware of the opportunities and are prepared.

Woods gave a power point presentation and a discussion of the various products, supplies and services that will be required by the company. Erickson stated there was a good response from luncheon attendees. He added that local businesses will need to meet individually with Woods to discuss the company’s needs further. Future Chamber meetings are being planned to discuss job training, especially for mill jobs. Novagold is expected to make a “go/no go” decision regarding the mining prospect this year.

Court

Week ending 2/10
Civil

Kyle Komok v. June Weyanna; DV
Raymond Seetook, Sr. v. Clyde Ongtowsruk, Sr.; DV

Criminal

State of Alaska v. Thelma Evan (3/31/58); Order Suspending Imposition of Sentence and Providing for Probation; Vehicle Theft 1°; Date of offense: 8/2/05; Defendant came before the court on (sentencing date) 2/9/06 with counsel, Kirsten Bey, and the DA present; It appearing to the satisfaction of this court that the ends of justice and the best interests of the public, as well as the defendant, will be served thereby, IT IS ORDERED that the sentencing of the defendant is suspended for a period of 1 year and the defendant is placed on probation to the DOC under the conditions of probation listed below; IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant pay restitution as stated in the Restitution Judgment and that defendant apply for an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend every year in which defendant is a resident eligible for a dividend until the restitution is paid in full; The Restitution Judgment will continue to be civilly enforceable after the period of 1 year and the defendant is placed on probation to the DOC under the conditions of probation listed below; IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant pay restitution as stated in the Restitution Judgment and that defendant apply for an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend every year in which defendant is a resident eligible for a dividend until the restitution is paid in full; The Restitution Judgment will continue to be civilly enforceable after the period of probation expires and after any set-aside of the conviction in this case; Criminal Rule 32.6(i); IT IS ALSO ORDERED that the

defendant’s driver’s license, privilege to obtain a license and to operate a motor vehicle is hereby revoked for 30 days; General and Other Special Conditions of Probation set, as stated in Order; Probation expires 2/9/07; Any appearance or performance bond in this case: is exonerated.

State of Alaska v. Kenneth Henry (4/26/83); Count 1: Assault 4°; Date of offense: 1/26/06; Counts (Charges) Dismissed by State: 2, 3, 4; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 300 days, 210 days suspended; Unsuspended 90 days shall be served with defendant remanded to AMCC; Jail Surcharge: \$150 with \$100 suspended; Shall pay unsuspended \$50 within 10 days to: AGs Office, Anchorage; Police Training Surcharge: Shall pay \$50 through Nome Trial Courts within 10 days; Probation until 2/9/09; Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall commit no violations of law, assaultive or disorderly conduct; Shall not possess or consume alcohol, nor enter or remain on the premises of any bar or liquor store; Subject to warrantless breath testing at request of any peace officer for alcohol; Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation; Comply with treatment or aftercare recommendations or support.

State of Alaska v. Patrick Reynolds (3/20/50); Misconduct Involving Controlled Substance; Date of offense: 12/17/05; Binding Plea Agreement; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 30 days, 30 days suspended; Fine: \$500 with \$0 suspended; Shall pay unsuspended \$50 fine through Nome Trial Courts by 8/1/06; Police Training Surcharge: Shall pay \$50 through Nome Trial Courts within 10 days; Jail Surcharge: \$100 with \$100 suspended; Forfeit Marijuana to State; Probation until 2/9/08; Comply with all court orders listed above by the deadlines

stated; Subject to warrantless arrest for violation of probation; No violations of law; Shall not possess or consume alcohol or marijuana or other controlled substances without prescription; Subject to warrantless breath testing at request of any peace officer and warrantless search of person and baggage at airports.

State of Alaska v. Joann R. Katchatag (9/21/84); Count 1: Importation of Alcohol; Date of offense: 10/1/05; Binding Plea Agreement; Counts (Charges) Dismissed by State: 2; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 30 days, 30 days suspended; Forfeit Alcohol to State; Jail Surcharge: \$100 with \$100 suspended; Police Training Surcharge: Shall pay \$50 through Nome Trial Courts within 10 days; Probation until 1/30/07; Shall comply with all court orders by the deadlines stated; Shall commit no violations of law; Shall not possess or consume alcohol in any dry or damp community; Subject to warrantless breath testing at request of any peace officer in such community; Person and baggage are subject to warrantless search at any airport; Shall submit proof of completion of 20 hours of Community Work Service by 7/1/06; Subject to warrantless arrest for any violation of these conditions of probation.

State of Alaska v. Richard Kuzuguk (9/23/62); Notice of Dismissal; Importation; Date of offense: 6/30/05; Filed by the DAs office 2/1/06.

State of Alaska v. Lawrence “Jay” Lockwood (3/29/77); Misconduct Involving Weapons 4°; Date of offense: 2/6/06; Any appearance or performance bond is exonerated; 120 days, 90 days suspended; Unsuspended 30 days shall be served with defendant reporting to AMCC by 2/24/06; Forfeit rifle to State; Jail Surcharge: \$150 with \$100 suspended; Shall pay unsuspended \$50 within 10 days to: AGs Office, Anchorage; Police Training Surcharge: Shall pay \$50 through Nome Trial



Photo by Diana Haecker

STILL BLOWING AROUND— A sight not likely to disappear anytime soon, the city council addressed the plastic bag issue again last Monday, but didn't take action to ban the bags from Nome.

Council ponders alternatives
to banning plastic bags

By Laurie McNicholas

Nome Common Councilman Jon Larson has found no immediate support among other Council members for his proposed ordinance to prohibit plastic bags used for carry out in retail business. During a Council work session held February 13 to discuss Larson’s proposal and a report on solid waste management issues by Acting City Engineer Jim Vogel, most Council members voiced preferences for alternatives such as these:

- Require the City’s landfill contractor to more frequently pick up plastic bags at the landfill.
- Encourage recycling of plastic bags at local stores.
- Install additional, higher and/or more effective fences at the landfill.

- Consider starting Cell 2 (a second landfill unit) sooner rather than later.
- Educate the public about the uses of canvas bags, to decline offers of plastic bags when they are not needed, etc.

Suggestions for dealing with Larson’s proposed ordinance varied among Council members from voting it down to tabling it for several months until the effectiveness of interim measures are evaluated. Council members also want time to investigate waste management techniques described in Vogel’s report, such as burn boxes, waste baling and tall litter fencing, some of which are used in other western Alaska communities.

CITY OF NOME

NOTICE OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION
FOR PROPERTY WITH FORECLOSED PROPERTY TAX LIENS
REAL PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURE
LISTING TAX FORECLOSURES FOR THE YEARS 1998-2001

TAKE NOTICE that on or after the 27th day of February, 2006, the City of Nome will apply to the Superior Court Second Judicial District, State of Alaska for a Tax Deed for all unredeemed property ordered sold by Judge Ben J. Esch in the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosures of Real Property Tax Liens dated April 8, 2004, in the Superior Court Case No. 2NO-03-146 Cl. In the Matter of 1998 through 2001 Delinquent Real Property Taxes Owed to the City of Nome, Alaska. Notice will be given by four (4) weekly publications of this notice and the list of unredeemed property in the Nome Nugget weekly newspaper on January 26, February 2, February 9 and February 16, 2006. In addition to publication, notice will be sent by certified mail to the former record owner of the unredeemed property against which a judgment of foreclosure has been taken. Notice will also be sent by certified mail to the holders of mortgages and of other liens of record where the assessed value of a property is more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

The right of redemption shall expire thirty (30) days after the date of the first date of publication of this notice. Until the expiration of the period of redemption, the property listed in the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure may be redeemed by payment in full of taxes, penalties, and interest due and owing on the parcel(s) sought to be redeemed, together with payment of the proportionate share of costs of foreclosure.

This list of unredeemed property is available for public inspection at the City Clerk’s Office at Nome City Hall at 102 Division Street, Nome, Alaska. PAYMENT IN FULL OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT SHOWN ON THE FORECLOSURE LIST PLUS ADDITIONAL INTEREST, PENALTY AND A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE COSTS OF FORECLOSURE MUST BE PAID TO REDEEM ANY PROPERTY. ALL PROPERTY ORDERED SOLD UNDER THE JUDGMENT, UNLESS REDEEMED, SHALL BE DEEDED TO THE CITY OF NOME IMMEDIATELY ON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION, AFTER APPLICATION TO THE COURT, AND EVERY RIGHT OR INTEREST OF ANY PERSON IN THE PROPERTY WILL BE FOREITED FOREVER TO THE CITY OF NOME.

CITY OF NOME, ALASKA 1998-2001 FLORECLOSURE LIST

OWNER OF RECORD	LEGAL	TAX LOT #	1998 Tax	1999 Tax	2000 Tax	2001 Tax	TOTAL TAX DUE	PENALTY	INTEREST /COSTS*
PIERCE, Donald; ADSUNA, John G; ADSUNA, Jessie L.; ANDERSON, J.; KLEMENTSON, Mary; ADSUNA, Garret	B 49, L 6	001.161.01E			891.60	936.18	\$1,827.78	172.77	
BUNJEVAC, Sophie June (Estate) c/o David Bunjevac	B 66, L 28A NT	001.161.24	134.43	145.20	145.20	152.46	\$577.29	57.73	SEE NOTE BELOW**
BUTLER, Ed c/o Caroline Bradley	1339 PTN CONT.6.79 acres#1	190.1.105A			222.00	233.10	\$455.10	45.51	
GANDIA, Iva C.	B 54, L 18A NT	001.291.13		71.23	890.40	934.92	\$1,896.55	182.53	
KAKIK, Sam (Estate)	B 96, L 11 (West 1/2) NT	001.311.15				114.34	\$114.34	0.00	
O'CONNOR, Maggie	B 13, L 4 Icy View	198.2.457				1,338.86	\$1,338.86	0.00	
OUTWATER, Isabelle J. (Estate)	B 26, L 8 NT	001.281.56	41.11	44.40	44.40	46.62	\$176.53	17.65	
OUTWATER, Isabelle J. (Estate)	B 26, L 9A NT	001.281.57	388.85	420.00	420.00	441.00	\$1,669.85	166.99	SEE NOTE BELOW**
PELOWOOK, Gilbert (Estate)	B 50, L 5A NT	001.161.29		454.51	541.20	568.26	\$1,563.97	110.94	
SEELKOKE, Archie; OVEZOV, Helen, Queen & Mildred	B 57, L 8 NT	001.411.16				102.69	\$102.69	10.27	
TRIGG, Clarence	B 66, L 6&7 (exc N 115' ea lot) NT	001.161.17		98.40	98.40	103.32	\$300.12	30.01	
TRIGG, Clarence	B 66, L 29 & 30 (L30 exc W 3') NT	001.161.25		742.80			\$742.80	74.28	
WALSH, J.D.	MS 1373 Sect 26	190.1.080A			283.20	297.36	\$580.56	58.06	

*Plus, INTEREST of Eight Percent (8%) FROM THE DATE DUE UNTIL THE DATE PAID and a proportionate share of the COSTS of Foreclosure.
**Additional costs are assessed to this parcel pursuant to City of Nome Resolution R-02-7-6 and the Nome Code of Ordinances 5.30.020. Additional fees of \$2,925.00 are due in Block 26, Lot 9A. Additional fees of \$2,765.00 are due in Block 66, Lot 28A.

I Certify that I am the City Clerk/Treasurer of the City of Nome, and that the foregoing Foreclosure is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
/s/Leslee M. Wessel, City Clerk/Treasurer
/s/Terrie Perkins, NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Alaska. My Commission Expires:3/06/06
1/26;2/2-9-16



Photo by Laurent Dick

HAPPY EASTER — Dozens of children braved cold temperatures, drifting snow and bone-chilling winds to participate in Nome's Annual Easter Egg Hunt last Sunday. Volunteers hid several hundred colored eggs in the snow on Anvil City Square.

The Nome Nugget

Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

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VOLUME CVI NO. 16 APRIL 20, 2006



Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

IT'S NOT PRETTY, BUT I FINISHED!— Reese Madden takes second in his class in the 2006 Cannonball Race, finishing the race minus a few pieces of equipment. (See story page 7.)

Mom sheds murder charge in baby's death

By Sandra L. Medearis

Heather Takak pleaded guilty to manslaughter Monday in the death of her 11-month old baby girl whose body showed signs of physical abuse and starvation, according to the medical examiner who performed an autopsy.

The state charged Takak with first-degree murder in 2004. Judge Ben Esch Monday accepted Takak's plea to the lesser charge and set Takak's sentencing for Aug. 1.

Takak and the baby's father, Frank R. Johnson, took Christina N.

Johnson to the Unalakleet clinic early on Nov. 17, 2003 because, they said, she had trouble breathing. The baby died at the clinic, weighing 7.67 pounds, according to state Chief Medical Examiner Franc Fallico. In July 2005 at the father's trial, village health aides testified that in the clinic that morning, Christina looked like a three-month-old child. Ella Agibnik, community health aide, told the court when Dr. Sai Ling Liu introduced a light into a tube in the baby's trachea, Agibnik could see the light through the

infant's chest.

An autopsy found evidence from the baby's remains that she had starved and had injuries to her head within several days of her death.

In a statement to an investigating Alaska State Trooper, Takak said she had not fed Christina and had dropped her twice intentionally in the bedroom of the couple's Unalakleet home.

"I dropped her on purpose. I was in the bedroom. I dropped her

continued on page 5

Land lease signed for Rock Creek project

By Diana Haecker

Alaska Gold's proposed Rock Creek mine project is one step closer to becoming a reality as Bering Straits Native Corporation and Alaska Gold representative Doug Nicholson signed a lease agreement last week.

Bering Straits Native Corporation leased the subsurface rights to 3,000 acres to Alaska Gold, a daughter company to Canada's NovaGold.

The signing took place in a short and unceremonial fashion in the BSNC board room with vice presi-

dent of NovaGold Alaska and general manager of Alaska Gold Doug Nicholson; Alaska Gold mine manager for the Rock Creek project Warren Woods; BSNC president Tim Towarak; Golden Glacier Inc., (a wholly owned subsidiary of BSNC) president Homer Hoogendorn; BSNC Assistant Land Manager Irene Anderson and other staff members present.

The agreement constitutes Alaska Gold paying an advance royalty payment annually and a royalty on net smelter returns to BSNC in

exchange for the subsurface rights to mine the Rock Creek area.

Tim Towarak said that the signing is a historic occasion, as this marks the first time that a mining company signed a lode-mining agreement with an Alaska Native Corporation for gold.

"I'm very pleased to sign the agreement," said Nicholson in reply. "We are hoping for a long and mutually beneficial relationship with Bering Straits Native Corporation."

continued on page 3

Matt Owens sentenced to 101 years

By Diana Haecker

Former Nome police officer Matthew Owens, 30, was sentenced to 101 years in prison last Monday, April 17.

In December 2005, a 12-person jury in Kotzebue found Owens guilty on the counts of murder in the first degree of Unalakleet native Sonya Ivanoff in 2003 and tampering with evidence.

Superior Court Judge Ben Esch imposed the maximum sentence of 99 years in jail for Ivanoff's execution-style killing and gave Owens two years for staging the theft of a police car in an attempt to divert the attention of investigators away from him.

Judge Esch pronounced the sentence after considering a pre-sentence report compiled by a probation officer, containing among other information letters from community members, law enforcement officers and both prosecution and defense lawyers. Esch also listened to oral arguments by the prosecution and defense.

During the proceedings in a densely packed court room, lead prosecutor Rick Svobodny argued

for the maximum sentence of 99 years, saying that it is by law the only sentence for murdering a police officer. "If you kill a police officer you get 99 years," Svobodny said. "For a police officer on active duty, to commit the worst crime, it should be the same sentence, and he should get 99 years of incarceration."

Svobodny said Owens misused his position of authority to meet women, get them into his patrol car and coerce them into having sex with him. Svobodny also said that the murder also severely impacted the whole law enforcement community in Alaska.

"Sentencing is the most difficult part in any case," Svobodny said.

In this case, however, Svobodny said the sentencing is obvious based on the nature of the crime and Owens' long history of abuse of power. "Owens used his authority as a policeman stopping women to ultimately have dates with them," Svobodny said. "Matt Owens has a history of escalating abuse toward women until the ultimate abuse happened with the murder of Sonya

continued on page 4



Photo by Diana Haecker

SENTENCED — Matthew Clay Owens was sentenced to a 101-year prison term with the possibility of parole last Monday.



(left) MAKING HISTORY— Alaska Gold and Bering Straits Native Corporation signed a land lease agreement last week to lease 3,000 acres of BSNC land to the gold company's Rock Creek mine project. Pictured are front row, left to right: Doug Nicholson, Homer Hoogendorn, Tim Towarak. Back row left to right: Warren Woods, Rose Koezuna-Clark, Josie Reader, Camill Goldsberry, Peggy Hoogendorn, Jerald Brown, Irene Anderson, Jeanne Yuman.



Photos by Diana Haecker
(right) TRANSACTION— Alaska Gold manager Doug Nicholson, left, hands over the annual payment for the land lease of the subsurface rights to the Rock Creek mine to Golden Glacier Inc. president Homer Hoogendorn last week.

•Rock Creek

continued from page 1

Nicholson said that the Gold Company is in the process of finalizing the permit applications required by the state. Part of the permitting process is a public comment period. Nicholson reckons this will begin in May, when public hearings will take place and the state agencies and Alaska Gold will solicit opinions from the Nome public about the proposed Rock Creek mine. “The public is welcome to review the application and speak with state and Alaska Gold representatives about the mine,” said

Nicholson.

Nicholson said that the mine is a very important project for Alaska Gold and that it costs the company \$68 million to even start the project. Warren Woods, the Rock Creek project mine manager, said that he hopes that most of the 135 jobs can be filled with workers from the region. “We will have our own training program, and we are working with Kawerak on apprenticeships for mechanics, carpenters, plumbers and electricians,” said Woods. He said he had traveled the region to inform interested workers

about the job opportunities. “I’m accepting résumés and keeping them on file.”

He recommended sending in résumés even before the company advertises job descriptions. “We’ll need mining engineers, equipment operators, construction crew, mill personnel, welders, mechanics and maintenance personnel,” said Woods.

Depending on the status of the state’s permitting process, Nicholson reckons that the first construction phase of nine months will begin in the fall of 2006.

STILL MISSING • REWARD OFFERED

To date, there has still been no sign of the following people: Aurora Escholt, reported missing August/September 1966; Raleigh Iyapana, missing since November 16, 1971; James Moses Jr., missing since September 15, 1976; Donald Adams, missing since October 16, 1976; Nathan Anungazuk, missing since September 30, 1982; Ernest Saccheus, missing since September 23, 1987; Justina Kunayak, missing since November 20, 1990; Archie Henry Jr., missing since October 19, 1998; Lancelot Immergan, missing since November 2, 1999 and Eric Apatiki, missing since October 4, 2004.

Also if you have further information about the circumstances of deaths of the following people: Beverly Immengan, reported dead January 15, 1977; Matthew Towarak, reported drowned on November 4, 1989; Elmer Campbell Jr., reported dead November 12, 1990; Olin Apatiki, reported dead August 13, 1996; Jeffery Komonaseak, reported dead August 12, 1999; Ivadell Kazingnuk, reported dead March 13, 2002; Chris Waghiyi, reported dead June 13, 1992. Anyone with information should call the Nome Police Department at 443-5262 or the NPD confidential Crime Line at 443-7804 or the Alaska State Troopers at 443-5525 or toll free at 1-800-443-2835. Several regional and local entities have established a reward fund for first hand information leading to the closure, arrest or prosecution of individuals responsible for disappearances or unsolved deaths in Nome.

If you have any knowledge of what happened in any of the cases, please call the Nome Police Department. If you need assistance with the process, call Karlin Itchoak at Kawerak at 443-4341. Kawerak is still requesting photographs of the following persons: Beverly Immengan, Donald Adams, James Moses Jr., Nathan Anungazuk, Jeffery Komonaseak, Chris Waghiyi and Raleigh Iyapana. If you have a photo, please send it to Kawerak, Inc. P.O. Box 948, Nome, AK 99762.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 20 — April 26, 2006

EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday, April 20		
Big Brothers/Big Sisters at the Aurora Inn: Region 1 Music Festival April 20 - 22/Nome-Beltz		
*Nome Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Tennis	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*Tennis	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Nome Rec Center	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
*Library Hours	Front Street	noon - 5 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Kegoayah Library	noon - 8 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Kinder Swim	Nome Rec Center	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Boys & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Sounds & Silence Video	Prematernal Home	2 p.m.
*NNST	Pool	3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
*Smoking: A Time to Quit Video	Prematernal Home	3 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Resistance Training	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Smoke Free Class	Prematernal Home	4:15 p.m.
*Crafts/Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Step Aerobics	Nome Rec Center	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
*Lap Swim	Pool	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Nome Food Bank	Bering & Seppala	5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*Kripalua Yoga	Nome Rec Center	6:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.
*Open Swim	Pool	7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
*AA T.N.T.	Catholic Church	8 p.m.
2006 Native Youth Olympics/White Mountain		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*NPS	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*NPS	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 5 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Nutrition Class	Prematernal Home	noon - 2 p.m.
*Exercise Class	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Kids & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kids Soccer	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Yoga (intermediate)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Adult Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Music Festival/Individual Schools		
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Candle light	Methodist Church	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.)
Friday, April 21		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
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*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 5 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Nutrition Class	Prematernal Home	noon - 2 p.m.
*Exercise Class	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Kids & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kids Soccer	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Yoga (intermediate)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Adult Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Music Festival/Individual Schools		
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Candle light	Methodist Church	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.)
Saturday, April 22 - Earth Day		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
2006 Native Youth Olympics/White Mountain		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*NPS	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*NPS	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 5 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Nutrition Class	Prematernal Home	noon - 2 p.m.
*Exercise Class	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Kids & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kids Soccer	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Yoga (intermediate)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Adult Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Music Festival/Individual Schools		
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Candle light	Methodist Church	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.)
Sunday, April 23 - Rec Center weight & sauna rooms open ONLY		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
2006 Native Youth Olympics/White Mountain		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*NPS	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*NPS	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 5 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Nutrition Class	Prematernal Home	noon - 2 p.m.
*Exercise Class	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Kids & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kids Soccer	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Yoga (intermediate)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Adult Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Music Festival/Individual Schools		
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Candle light	Methodist Church	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.)
Monday, April 24		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
2006 Native Youth Olympics/White Mountain		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*NPS	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*NPS	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 5 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Nutrition Class	Prematernal Home	noon - 2 p.m.
*Exercise Class	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Kids & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kids Soccer	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Yoga (intermediate)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Adult Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Music Festival/Individual Schools		
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Candle light	Methodist Church	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.)
Tuesday, April 25		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
2006 Native Youth Olympics/White Mountain		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*NPS	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*NPS	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 5 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Nutrition Class	Prematernal Home	noon - 2 p.m.
*Exercise Class	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Kids & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kids Soccer	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Yoga (intermediate)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Adult Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Music Festival/Individual Schools		
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Candle light	Methodist Church	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.)
Wednesday, April 26 - Administrative Professionals' Day		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
2006 Native Youth Olympics/White Mountain		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Energy Summit		
*Nome Visitor Center	Pioneer Hall	9 a.m.
*NPS	Front Street	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
*Kindergym	Pool	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	10 a.m. - noon
*NPS	Pool	noon - 1 p.m.
*Carrie McLain Memorial Museum	Front Street	12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
*Library Hours	Kegoayah Library	noon - 5 p.m.
*Home School Gym	Nome Rec Center	noon - 6 p.m.
*Nutrition Class	Prematernal Home	noon - 2 p.m.
*Exercise Class	Prematernal Home	1 p.m.
*After School Gym	Nome Rec Center	2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
*Kids & Girls Club	Teen Center	2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*Kids Soccer	Nome Rec Center	3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
*Power Hour/Game Room	Boys & Girls Club	3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Swim Lessons	Pool	4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Cardio Kick Boxing	Nome Rec Center	4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
*Computer Lab	Boys & Girls Club	5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
*Yoga (intermediate)	Nome Rec Center	5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
*Water Aerobics	Pool	6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
*Adult Soccer	Nome Rec Center	8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Music Festival/Individual Schools		
*Tae Kwon Do	Nome Rec Center	7 p.m.
*Friday Teen ONLY	Boys and Girls Club	7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
*AA Candle light	Methodist Church	(5-7 p.m. Jr; 7-9 p.m. Sr.)
Thursday, April 27		
Rec Center Hours	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
*Drop-In Basketball	Nome Rec Center	5:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.
*A.M. Laps	Pool	6:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
*Live from the Polar Cafe/KICY	Polar Cafe	7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
*NACTEC	Pool	8 a.m. - 9:30



Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

SIGNS OF SPRING — A flock of seagulls sit by the mouth of Nome River by Fort Davis anticipating spring.

The Nome Nugget

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Photo by Diana Haecker

SOUPERMAN— DAWN supporter Todd Hindman was dubbed “Souperman” during last Friday’s SouperBowl fundraiser at the Elementary School for having prepared most of the 10 delicious soups. The SouperBowl is an annual fundraiser for Drugs Aren’t Wanted in Nome.

Backers keep Nome at the trough

By Sandra L Medearis

City administrators are applauding regional state representatives, lobbyists and themselves for making the rounds in Juneau to see important capital projects through the legislature, ensuring that Nome’s straw got a good pull from the fat reservoir of record state oil revenues to pay for roads, power, public buildings and essential services like water and sewer.

Pending approval by Gov. Frank Murkowski, local capital improvement projects through city and state agencies affecting quality of life in the Nome area received more than \$20 million in state dollars and federal money out of \$2.5 billion-\$2.7 billion divvied up by the Legislature through the capital budget, putting a smile on those who plan for public infrastructures.

continued on page 4

BLM issues Western Alaska land use plan

By Sandra L. Medearis

What weighs over five pounds, is three inches thick and chock full of information that should be very interesting to the residents and users of abundant subsistence, mineral and recreational resources on the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula? It is the two-volume Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, updated from the 1982 plan by fed-

eral mandate. The draft determination will come up for public review and comment at a public meeting in Nome on May 24 at the Aurora Inn conference Room from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The public hearing will begin at 7:15 p.m. The Bureau of Land Management released the work May 5. It is available for public comment until Aug. 4.

Putting forth four alternatives, beginning with Alternative A,

continued on page 4

Owens files appeal

By Diana Haecker

On April 28, lawyers for Matthew Owens filed an appeal of final judgment with the Alaska Court of Appeals.

The appeal lists five points, stating that the Nome trial court committed error by refusing to change venue to Anchorage, Fairbanks or any other large community outside of northwest Alaska; for erring when the court restricted Owens’ right to cross-examine Nome police

department officer Byron Redburn; and for allowing the introduction of what Owens lawyers called unreliable hearsay by Mike Eaton.

Other points the appeal lists are that the court refused to recuse itself. “The court committed error for not declaring a mistrial in Kotzebue when there were two jurors who had been consuming alcohol during the trial and by the end of the trial. Only one would be

continued on page 5

Windblown waste litters tundra around dump

By Diana Haecker

Landfill operator Gary Hart can’t hear it anymore. “The plastic bag problem is like a broken record,” he said in response to the evergreen-question of what to do about flying garbage and plastic bags, littering the land and tundra around the city’s landfill storm after storm.

The question has come up in numerous City Council meetings and work sessions, but so far no alternative solution to the present practice has materialized. For the second time in three years, an ordinance to ban plastic bags was voted down by city council members on February 27.

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•Budget

continued from page 1

The appropriation even includes money for a public safety building. Last Friday City Manager Randy Romenesko was pinching himself to see if he was dreaming.

“I’m ecstatic,” he said. “It’s unbelievable.”

Romenesko praised regional representatives and the lobbyists working on Nome’s behalf with state legislators. “Richard (Rep. Foster D-Nome) was a great help with his seniority and effort. His support is integral to getting resources for this region.”

The top projects on the wish list the Nome Common Council handed legislators and lobbyists received funds, the new power plant and water and sewer upgrades. The state

capital projects budget holds \$4 million for the power plant under construction on Port Road, money from bond sales based on anticipated revenue from a tobacco suit settlement with Philip Morris and other companies. For replacement and extension of water and sewer mains, the City received \$2.207 million.

On top of that, the City got \$2.7 million for the long-awaited, long-desired public safety building to house the ambulance, police and emergency services. According to Romenesko, city administrators are in the process of selecting an architecture and engineering firm, for which the City has design money through a community block grant program.

“Now we have some money to

build it!” Romenesko said.

The City is in negotiations with Alaska Gold for land for the public safety building in the north of town near the Alaska Commercial store.

The list goes on, with \$3.0 million for improvements to the Nome Bypass Road and \$1.275 million for dust control. The City has flexibility with application of the dust money, as it can go wherever Nome has dust, for which most streets are eligible.

Again, pending the governor’s signature, there is more money on the way to enhance the arrival and departure from Nome. An appropriation to the state Dept. of Transportation provides \$7 million for federally mandated improvements to Nome Airport, and more

money for permanent repairs for the Nome-Teller (Blodgett) Highway.

Still further, the City received money to help cover increased costs of employee benefits, and, to help with the high price of utilities to light City offices, another \$170,000 for the City’s general fund.

Nome Joint Utilities Manager John Handeland said the \$4 million for the power plant will come in handy to make up the \$13 million needed for the project, which will require additional money to string feeder lines and when the Rock Creek gold mine opens, to buy another generator to supply its power. NJU is still working to secure an additional \$4 million from RUS. Handeland praised Foster and Sen. Donny Olson for helping to

secure the \$4 million from the tobacco settlement.

In other areas of the region, Bering Strait School District has money in the state capital budget for two new schools—for Savoonga, \$31.6 million, for St. Michael, \$22.5 million—and to build a long-hoped for dormitory for its NACTEC vocational education program next door to Nome’s high school.

The governor could still exercise his line item veto on some of the projects. Some funding may tie to getting an oil tax bill passed, Romenesko cautioned. “I’m not counting my chickens,” but I’m happy,” he said.

•BLM

continued from page 1

which would leave management the same, of the three remaining comprising various changes, the BLM comes out in favor of Alternative D. Reading out of the introduction to the presented options, this alternative emphasizes a moderate protection, use and enhancements of resources and services, based on consideration of a balanced use and protection of resources and the extent of environmental impacts, which means:

- This choice would designate one Research Natural Area for education, five Areas of Critical Environmental concern needing more attention to use, and two Special Management Areas.

- This alternative would revoke most ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals, leaving the majority of the planning

area open to mineral entry and location.

- The research area and three anadromous rivers (where fish return to spawn) would be withdrawn from mineral entry. Protections for resources would cover some areas.

- No rivers would be recommended to go under the American Scenic Rivers Act.

Prepared by the Fairbanks field office of the Bureau of Land management, the two-volume work reflects input from federal and state agencies as well as the public in drawing up four alternatives that when final will govern land use on 31 million acres of federal lands for some years. In specific, the plan addresses, for example, alternatives for use of areas of critical environmental concern including the Kigluaik Mountains, Mount

Osborn, Kuzitrin River, Nulato Hills, and special recreational management areas like Salmon Lake and Squirrel River. More information will be available at the May 24 meeting.

The planning process that drew from nine public scoping meetings in March and April 2004, assigns four major issues to the project, which try to harmonize possibly conflicting uses of the vast lands:

- How can recreational use of public lands be managed to reduce conflicts between sport and subsistence hunting and to prevent negative impacts on subsistence hunting opportunity?

- How to maintain and protect subsistence opportunities—determine how management actions, guidelines, and allowable uses prescribed in response to other issues will affect both subsistence opportunities and resources and the social and economic environment.

- Determine which areas should be made available for mineral exploration and development (mining).

- Provide access to BLM man-

aged lands for various purposes, including recreation, subsistence activities, and general enjoyment of public lands, while protecting cultural and natural resources.

Ideas the Resource Management Plan does not address are wilderness inventory, land conveyance (which the plan will not retard or speed up), existing BLM regulations on fee structures and permitting for commercial activities including grazing permits, hunting and fishing regulations, which are the territory of state Department of Fish and Game and the state boards of game and fisheries. Decisions made in the RMP will not affect state or federal fishing or hunting regulations.

Additionally, the plan does not take up the State of Alaska’s say over guides, outfitters and transporters, and decisions on the federal subsistence program will continue to come from regional advisory councils and the Federal Subsistence Board with input from state ADF&G, the public and federal staff. The RMP does consider impacts and access to subsistence

resources and subsistence opportunities from proposals associated with the four alternative plans of action in the Environmental Impact Survey. Subsistence uses and needs are considered according to ANILCA. According to the plan book, valid existing rights will be recognized and protected.

Information on the Seward Peninsula-Kobuk Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement can be found at the library and BLM office in the post office lobby. Or, find it online at www.blm.gov/ak/ksp under “documents.” Aside from land use issues, the study holds a treasure of information on Western Alaska plants, animals, scenic wonders and wilderness nooks and crannies, with many informative maps.

Following the 90-day public comment period, the BLM staff will designate one of the alternatives, possibly make revisions based on public input and issue a final plan, followed by a 30-day “protest” period. Then following possible changes, the plan will go into law.

Nome Board of Equalization declines property assessment appeals

By Laurie McNicholas

The 2006 Nome Board of Equalization met May 9 to certify decisions made at their meeting May 3 on appeals filed by individuals who disputed the City of Nome’s assessed values of their properties. The Nome Board of Equalization is comprised of members of the Nome Common Council.

At their meeting May 3, the Board unanimously declined to accept a late filed appeal by Leo Rasmussen. They also voted down motions to approve appeals by Rose Ann Timbers of value assessments of two of her properties—Block 70, Lot 1 & 2 (which has been combined into one tax lot number) and Block 91, Lot 2A. The following information is derived from minutes of the May 3 meeting.

In her appeal letter to the Board dated April 12, 2006, Timbers wrote: “I am contesting the value of my lots assessed at \$46,900.00 description Lot 1 & 2. If the Nome Joint Utility Board and Manager John Handeland filled my lots with gravel like they promised my lots would be of full value at the taxable value of \$46,900.00. The last offer I received was \$35,000.00 unless the property was filled with the gravel that should have been put on my property.”

In discussion of this issue, property assessor Russell Farrington recommended that the value of the combined Lot 1 & 2 be reduced from \$3.35 per square foot to \$3.00 per square foot for a total of \$42,000 to reflect a somewhat undesirable location adjacent to a 29-plex. He also said he had heard Timbers had tried to sell the lots without success. In response to a question from Councilwoman Mary Knodel, Farrington said that last year the Board had reduced the assessed value of Lot 1 & 2 from \$50,400 to \$46,900. The Council discussed the possibility that lack of for sale signs and effort to sell the lots could be reasons they remain unsold. A motion to approve Timbers’ appeal on Block 70, Lot 1 & 2 failed by a vote of 4-0.

In regard to the assessed value of Block 91, Lot 2A, Timbers wrote to the board: “My property assessed value of \$109,000 has decreased in value again this year due to NJUS not properly packing my home after their project. I have written letters to the office and provided public testimony on 3/27/06. I am currently paying bills for plumbing, and will this summer have to have my home releveled due to NJUS project creating more shifting and flooding problems in front of my property. I cannot sell my home at the assessed value of \$109,900....”

Farrington noted that the Board of Equalization had revalued the property at \$109,900 last year and that this year its assessed value had increased based on the 2006 revaluation of Nome. “Based on Ms. Timber’s letter stating problems with the house and the overall fair observed condition of the subject property, it is my recommendation that the value be lowered to the 2005 BOE value, as this value is considered to be more in line with the current market,” Ferrington added.

In response to a question from Knodel, Ferrington said there is no for sale sign on the property. Councilman Randy Pomeranz said his own house had shifted all over the place because of fill placed on lots behind his house and that it seems to be a product of where they live. Councilmen Jerald Brown, John Larson and Pomeranz voted in favor of a motion to approve Timbers’ appeal of the assessed value of Block 91, Lot 2A, and Councilwoman Knodel voted against it. The motion failed because a minimum of four votes are required for adoption of a motion.

Law requires that the same Council members who voted as members of the 2006 Board of Equalization May 3 certify their decisions within seven days, so on May 9 Brown, Knodel, Larson and Pomeranz adopted the findings of fact and conclusions of law for the 2006 Nome Board of Equalization. Brown and Larson participated by phone in the May 9 meeting.



LET SUMMER BEGIN!

Sponsored by the City of Nome in cooperation with the Bering Sea Lions Club, Nome Chamber of Commerce, Hanson's Eagle Quality Center, Alaska Commercial Company, The Glue Pot and Nome Aviation & Military Museum.

Saturday, MAY 27 • RAFFLE DAY
Noon to 5 p.m.

FREE hot dogs & pop served in the Lions Club Bus at Anvil City Square for all yellow bag cleaners.

PRIZE DRAWING at 5:15 p.m.
Anvil City Square, May 27

TRASH COLLECTION SITES
Icy View Fire Hall, East End Park, Elementary School Parking Lot, Recycling Center and Belmont Point

U-Call — We-Haul
May 22 - May 26
(MUST call 443-6663 to arrange pickup.)

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Please place items INSIDE the open drop-off container located directly across from Quality Auto Parts.

Aluminum, white paper and newspaper only.
(No plastics, glass or cardboard.)

For more information call City Hall, 443-6600.





Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

TUNDRA SWANS— Gracing local ponds and lakes with their presence, tundra swans, or "whistling swans" (*Cynus columbianus*) are at home on the Arctic tundra. The birds breed in Alaska and far northern Canada. They spend the winters at sites ranging from southern Alaska to Nevada, Utah and Baja California and also in the mid-Atlantic coast.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 27 JULY 6, 2006

Alaska Gold Company introduces Rock Creek Mine project to public

By Diana Haecker

"Tonight ends a lot of hard work and time, a lot of money and efforts spent by a lot of people to bring the project to this stage," began Doug Nicholson's presentation on the proposed Rock Creek Mine at last week's project public meeting at Old Saint Joseph Hall.

The meeting was part of a public comment period to give the community a chance to voice its opinion on the two proposed open-pit mine projects at Rock Creek and Big Hurrah, together called the Rock Creek Mine Project.

Army Corps of Engineers project manager Jim Wolfe, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources project review coordinator Jim Renkert, DNR office of project

management and permitting project manager Tom Crafford and Ed Fogels, deputy commissioner of the DNR were present to hear public comment on the project. State of Alaska DEC Project Manager Luke Boles was present telephonically.

Alaska Gold General Manager Doug Nicholson gave an overview of what the public can expect once the Rock Creek Mine Project goes online, extracting an estimated 3.3 million ounces of gold from the area.

First, he thanked Alaska Gold parent NovaGold President and CEO Rick Van Nieuwenhuysse for the tenacity to invest and pursue the Rock Creek Mine Project at a time when gold prices were down.

continued on page 7



Photo submitted by Joy Hewitt

FOURTH OF JULY— Madison Johnson enjoys the Fourth of July Celebration in Council last weekend after winning prizes in the fun-filled activities.

FBI profiler's report says no serial killer suspected in missing persons cases

By Diana Haecker

Last Thursday, a special meeting of the Community Safety Work group reviewed a report by FBI profilers asked to review 24 case files of missing persons and suspicious deaths that had occurred in Nome since 1966.

The FBI profiler's analysis: "Based on its review of the submitted case materials, it is the NCAVC's opinion that no evidence exists to support the conclusion that a serial killer has been targeting Native Alaskans in Nome."

The excerpts read by NPD Chief Craig Moates during the meeting said that none of the cases have been linked forensically and that there is no singular or unusual behavior reflected in the cases, which would support their linkage to a common offender. "Additionally, the lack of trauma is virtually unheard of in homicide investigations, let alone in serial killing investigations. The very long time span of four to five decades is also highly unusual for a serial killing case," the report reads.

Rather than suspecting one serial killer of the unsolved cases, the profilers suggested that a combination of other factors may need to be looked at. "When examining the number of cases that do not appear to be homicides, it is important to note the very cold climate, isolated and potentially treacherous geography, and cold ocean currents that exist in Nome. These factors, in conjunction with the excessive alcohol consumption by many of the victims, have to be taken into consideration."

Eighteen months ago resolutions were issued by the Bering Straits Native Corporation, Kawerak and Norton Sound Health Corporation to press law enforcement and the community to take a closer look at unexplained disappearances and deaths of young Native men under suspicious circumstances.

Two FBI agents from Quantico, Virginia, two agents from Anchorage and one from Fairbanks met with the core group of the Community Safety Group the day before the public meeting.

The well-attended public meeting the next day saw representatives from the Regional Wellness forum, NSHC, Nome Eskimo Community, Kawerak, AMCC, Alaska State Troopers, the City of Nome, as well as an *Anchorage Daily News* reporter and the Unalakleet IRA present telephonically.

According to Moates, NPD had been reviewing and investigating 24 missing persons and suspicious death cases dating back to the 1960s. The 24 case files were submitted to the FBI for analysis and review. "The purpose of the review was to determine the probability of a serial killer in the Nome community and to make suggestions to law enforcement concerning techniques and technology that would assist in the investigation of these cases," said Moates.

Out of the 24 cases, 19 had a definitive outcome, which did not seem to have a criminal element.

One case that could be put to rest was Ward Olanna's, whose body is still missing, but his murderer, Reuben Rock had been arrested,

continued on page 4



Photo by Diana Haecker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY — Nome Volunteer Fire Department Chief Wes Perkins celebrates his 50th birthday while working the wrench at a fire hydrant on Front Street last week opening the valve to let the water flow for the annual Front Street cleanup. With the Fourth of July celebrations around the corner, the fire department traditionally gets the fire hoses out and hoses down the mud, dust and dirt from Front Street.

• Alaska Gold



Photo by Diana Haecker

ROCK CREEK PROJECT—Alaska Gold's General Manager, Doug Nicholson, glances up at his Power Point presentation and explains the proposed operations at Rock Creek mine and Big Hurrah during last week's public meeting.

continued from page 1

NovaGold's website states that Van Nieuwenhuyse took over the management of NovaGold Resources Inc. in 1998 — then a company with no significant assets, no money and no appreciable market capitalization. Under Van Nieuwenhuyse's leadership, NovaGold turned into a company valued at over \$1.5 billion and is on the verge of becoming a mid-tier gold and copper producer.

Nicholson explained that NovaGold is now transitioning from an exploration company to a production company. Other NovaGold projects are located at Ambler Creek near Kobuk, the Galore mine and Donlin Creek.

Nicholson said that for the past years, Alaska Gold has worked on the exploration aspect of the Rock Creek and Big Hurrah mines. The companies has established hydrology baselines, monitored surface water and air quality, identified wetlands delineation, rock characterization and cultural resources; surveyed the socioeconomic as well as the wildlife aspect of the project and has come up with alternative analysis, mine planning and environmental mitigation.

Nicholson then gave a project overview of the two sites. Planned are two open-pit mines at Rock Creek, approximately eight miles

out of town, and Big Hurrah, 42 miles from town. A mill crushing and grinding 7,000 metric tons of material a day is to be constructed at the Rock Creek site. Nicholson projected that the output would be 100,000 oz. of gold a year, for a project life of four to five years. The mill will use a projected five to seven MW of electricity, supplied by Nome Joint Utilities. The Rock Creek mine footprint is mostly privately patented land, but other parts are owned by Bering Straits Native Corporation and Sitnasuak Native Corporation.

Nicholson said that Rock Creek had first been mined in 1902 and that extensive exploration took place in the last 30 years.

A 1200' x 3000' x 400' open pit following the drainage feature of the area is planned. Nicholson said that the company tries to avoid drainage into Glacier Creek, since it is a salmon stream. The mine mill would operate on two 12-hour shifts, year around. He said that controlled blasting in the pit would occur once a day and the ore would then be taken to the mill facility located at Rock Creek. He anticipates that 5,000 to 7,000 tons of ore will be processed each day. Gravity floatation will be utilized to capture the bulk of the gold. Approximately 1,000 tons are then skimmed off

and processed in a cyanidation circuit. He said that the material then goes through a detoxification circuit, where the cyanide is complexed to where it is not soluble and then gets recycled. "By the time the water comes out, it meets drinking water standards," said Nicholson.

Industry standard is that a sodium cyanide solution is mixed with finely ground rock and then separated from the ground rock as a gold cyanide solution. Zinc is added to the solution, precipitating out residual zinc, as well as the gold metals. The zinc is removed with sulfuric acid, leaving gold sludge that is generally smelted

into a doré that is shipped to a metals refinery for final processing into 99.9999 percent pure metals.

Nicholson said that carbon is added to the solution, which frees the gold from the cyanide, and the gold is then screened out and smelted right on site.

The solution is then taken through a detoxification process, and the tailings are taken to the tailings impoundment.

Nicholson showed photos of a mine mill building which the gold company acquired from Eleonore Creek mine. The building was disassembled and will be barged up from the Yukon and arrive in Nome soon.

He said that after the closure of facility, the open pit is proposed to be left as a lake as potential fish habitat.

At Big Hurrah, 42 miles east of Nome, Alaska Gold owns the patented rights to mine the entirety of the mine's proposed footprint. Nicholson said planned are an annual ore production of 270,000 tons. The ore will be trucked year around, 24/7 to the Rock Creek mill site with a convoy of two or three 100-ton trucks on road every hour and a half. The route is to follow the Council Highway to town, use the Nome Bypass Road, Nome-Beltz Highway, on to the Nome-Teller Road, off to the newly built spur to Glacier Creek Road.

Big Hurrah Creek will be re-channelized, and Nicholson said that Alaska Gold is seeing a unique opportunity to do something for the environment and to restore a stream from previous mining. "Tailings are in the creek drainage, which is something you do not want to see in [a] salmon stream," he said.

Nicholson then said that the building expenditure to bring the Rock Creek mine project online is estimated at \$78 million. The annual expenditure is projected at \$31 million, which is split up in \$20.6

million for consumables and \$10.4 in payroll. To date, Nicholson said, the company had spent \$44 million. Nicholson said that the mine would employ 135 people, preferably from Nome or the region. He said that there would be 70 employees needed at the mine, 46 to operate the mill and 19 to work in administration. He said there won't be a camp at the Rock Creek site and that employees will live in town. Nicholson emphasized a local hire priority policy.

"As we said all along, we will hire locally," Nicholson said. "We want to hire as many as possible from this region. It benefits us as well as the region. We get a more productive worker with somebody who's familiar to the area, who goes home every night to his family, who wants to be here and who enjoys the area."

On its website, NovaGold advertises the Rock Creek mine project to its shareholders by emphasizing the existing infrastructure and other existing state and city services. "The Rock Creek project is located only seven miles from the City of Nome and is accessed by state maintained roads. Positive attributes of the project include the presence of the nearby town site infrastructure and power, simple mining and processing, modest capital costs and exploration expansion potential. Permitting is also anticipated to be a straightforward and timely process, due to community support for the project and based on the long history of mining in the area. Permits are anticipated to be finalized by mid-2006."

The public comment period for the first wave of permits expired on Thursday, July 6. For more information go to www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine or to www.novagold.net.

• NJUS

cedure for Rock Creek as the enterprise comes to the end of its developmental stage.

Besides supplying dependable power to the mine where operators have vowed to put locals to work, an added benefit from the power

deal with NovaGold could be lower utility prices for other NJU customers, according to Handeland. "We will be able to spread our fixed costs over a much broader base," he said. "Rate-payers will see a savings."

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Photo by Nancy McGuire

RED-HOT RACERS— The Fourth of July Front Street games in Nome featured a 25-foot dash for folks 80 and over. Left to right are Dick Galleher, Mina Bachelder, Ingeborg Handeland, Senator Ted Stevens and Bob McAdoo. Senator Stevens and his family were able to take part in the Nome Fourth of July celebrations. He said that the parade and festivities are a fitting tribute to the 230th anniversary of our nation's birth. He said the events reminded him of the words of Francis Scott Key, who wrote the National Anthem. In 1831 Key delivered a 4th of July speech in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol building, he told those gathered there: "The spectacle of a happy people, rejoicing in thankfulness before God and the world for the blessing of civil liberty, is no vain pageant." Stevens said the 4th of July is not just a chance for us to gather with family and friends; it is a celebration of the freedoms our forefathers fought and won for us. It is a celebration of those who continue to fight for freedom around the globe. Today our men and women in uniform continue the proud tradition begun on the battlefields of Lexington and Concord, Yorktown and Trenton, the Civil War battlefields. Here in Nome your veterans fought in World War I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, the Persian Gulf, Iran and Iraq.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 28 JULY 13, 2006

Street rehabilitation slated for completion in 2007

By Ted Meyer

At the July 10 Nome Common Council meeting, City Manager Randy Romenesko reported that a request for bids for the Nome City Street Rehabilitation Project has been published by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The project consists of the rehabilitation of portions of Front, Bering, and Seppala Streets. Work will consist of reconstruction of the road sub-grade,

drain system, sidewalks, and replacement of pavement. Project completion is scheduled for October 2007.

Final approval was given to an ordinance authorizing the disposal of municipal property by lease to GCI. The 27,116 square foot parcel is located in the Port Road Industrial Subdivision.

In new business, a resolution adopting the risk management plan

continued on page 4

Cheney: America needs Alaska gas

By Sandra L. Medearis

The Legislature will meet again in special session beginning July 12 to continue to hammer on a gas pipeline contract, with additional hearings slated for July 13 and 14, with attempts to change the governor's revision of oil taxes and further debate on Alaska hire issues on the agenda.

Alaska representatives are laboring on hundreds of pages of a proposed contract with three oil companies under pressure to hurry up

from the Bush administration channeled through Vice President Dick Cheney, Sen. Ted Stevens, and Gov. Frank Murkowski's daughter, Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

The message—and a *de facto* plug for Gov. Frank Murkowski's reelection—from the Bush administration in a letter from Cheney to the Alaska legislature was that America needs Alaska gas—now. Lisa Murkowski underlined the message

continued on page 4



Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

WOW, LOOK AT ME — Miss ANB, Andrea Painter, gracefully pleases the crowd as she does the blanket toss.

Beach miner rescued

By Nancy McGuire

Early in the afternoon, July 7, Harold Zeke Schetzle, 57, and his beach mining partner, Scott Travos, were operating a floating dredge offshore from the seawall area south of River Street. Schetzle was in a wet suit and diving, using a snorkel breathing system in waist deep, cold water, when he apparently suffered a heart attack.

His partner managed to attract the attention of a woman who was sitting along the seawall, and she ran

to a business to phone 911 for help.

The Nome Fire Department, Search and Rescue and Ambulance Service responded.

Shane Smiththisler was in the port area when he heard the emergency call on his radio and got into the City of Nome skiff. He sped through the busy port, arrived on the scene, pulled Schetzle from the water and transported him to shore.

Access to the area was difficult, but a four-wheel drive truck was on scene. Emergency personnel could

not detect a pulse. He was placed on a backboard and cardiopulmonary resuscitation was initiated while he was transported to Norton Sound Hospital.

Medical personnel got his heart going, stabilized him and medicated him to Anchorage.

According to Nome Fire Chief Wes Perkins, it is thought that about 15 minutes may have passed from the time Schetzle first got in trouble till he was taken to the hospital.



Photo by Nancy McGuire

FIREFIGHTERS — NVFD responded to a fire at two abandoned buildings on Trigg Alley Saturday Morning, July 89. The fire was quickly brought under control. The buildings were owned by Wes Perkins.

See Rock Creek Mining story on page 5.

Fire destroys two Nome buildings

Flames were shooting out of the boarded-up residence on Trigg Alley just west of Bering Street at 9:45 Saturday morning when the Nome Volunteer Fire Department was called to the scene. Thick black smoke billowed high into the clear blue sky, and when the firefighters arrived on the scene they discovered

that two structures were fully involved in flames. A house and an adjacent three-unit, two-story apartment building were burning. Both buildings were unoccupied and had been boarded-up for the past two years. The house had been a former WWII KD building.

The cause of the fire is undeter-

mined as of press time. However, Nome police indicated that there have been arrests made at that location for minors consuming alcohol. It seems that the fire may have started in the hallway of the smaller structure and spread to the two-story building. Both buildings are

continued on page 4

7/6-13-20-27: 8/4

• Rock Creek mine

continued from page 5

tem.” Bullard voiced concern about the use of cyanide, the effects of acid mine drainage, the release of arsenic and the threat of sedimentation from the mine. As a remedy, Bullard suggests, “We believe that effective monitoring of the Snake River and Solomon River watersheds will address our concerns and quickly detect any changes in water chemistry, and ensure that those levels are brought under control. We also suggest implementing an extensive monitoring program that tests the pH of the watershed, as well as monitors the level of cyanide and arsenic in the system, to ensure that the natural resources are not inadvertently exposed to high levels of contaminants.” Bullard also requested to make the monitoring data available for the public.

Austin Ahmasuk also mentioned in his personal public comment concern about the proposed cyanide use. “The Rock Creek mine complex also maintains the possibility of exposing cyanide in its free form as well as its converted form to all animal life including humans.” Ahmasuk went into details about cyanide complexes and how a relatively non-toxic form of ferricyanide can decompose to release the highly toxic free cyanide when exposed to direct ultraviolet light in water solutions, depending on the pH level. Another risk to subsistence resources, according to Ahmasuk, stems from acid generating rock piles. For the layman unable to discern what the consequences are and what tests need to be run to get the full picture of the effects, details are of importance.

Ahmasuk pointed out that no mention is made in the plan regarding the release of arsenic, antimony or molybdenum. “Arsenic and antimony are toxic materials likely to be released at Big Hurrah and the mill site. The DNR and Alaska Gold have not planned for the release of those elements which will affect the chemical water quality and degrade water quality for aquatic, avian and terrestrial life,” Ahmasuk wrote. Ahmasuk concluded that the draft permits lack sufficient detail, are riddled with deficiencies in planning and control of pollutants, metals, metalloids and transition metals. “There are deficiencies in how fish habitat will be maintained or enhanced, and there are deficiencies in how reclamation will take place.”

Reindeer

Regarding the DNR permits and the Alaska Coastal management program consistency review, the Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association expressed concern whether or not the project will meet the ACMP consistency requirements to protect special habitat for reindeer. The Association’s concerns are that the natural habitat of the wetlands will be negatively impacted and that reindeer herders rely on wetlands. “We are aware that hard rock mining operations release lead, mercury, zinc, copper and heavy metals into the environment,” wrote Rose Fosdick, program director for the Reindeer Herders association. “We don’t want our environment and reindeer habitat to be negatively affected by releases of toxins by mining operations. Of great concern is the impact of contamination by fugitive dust which affects the vegetation in the transportation corridor, and we do not want to experience similar problems as those produced by Red Dog Mine.”

The Reindeer Herders Association identified three points for the company to consider: controlling the dust problem caused by increased traffic and heavy trucks; placing covers over rock and ore being transported; and continually testing for cadmium, heavy metals and other toxins as well as having a plan in place to stop contamination.

Traffic, dust and road maintenance

Construction of a new access road is nearly finished. The new bypass road is built from the Teller Highway hugging the east side of the Snake River Valley. It was constructed to provide safer road conditions than previously existed with the old Glacier Creek Road winding around Anvil Mountain, crossing Anvil Creek and following the pass along Glacier Creek to the Snake River Valley. The old Glacier Creek Road intersects with the new bypass road at Glacier Creek, south of Rock Creek.

According to Shannon McCarthy, public information officer with DOT, the approximately four-mile long new bypass road was built with \$7.3 million in federal funds under Governor Frank Murkowski’s Roads to Resources Initiative. The contractor, Kiewit, used gravel from ACG’s Windfall pit to build the road. Construction is slated to be finished this year. Currently, Kiewit crews are putting the top layer of gravel on the road and soon will be able to put up traffic signs.

While the road diverts traffic away from the unstable existing Glacier Creek Road, the new road meanders off and on the so-called Samuelson Trail, used in the past by mushers, snowmachiners and recreational skiers to gain access to the Snake River Valley. This user group now needs to look for an alternative route to access the valley.

ACG’s project description addresses traffic from Big Hurrah to the Rock Creek mine and mill complex, saying that “it is anticipated that the satellite operation at Big Hurrah will operate 12 months per year and include two ore trucks hauling loads 24 hours per day, seven days per week, in 90-minute round-trip cycles. For three to four months per year there will be a crew van going to the property and returning each day. The occasional truck will carry supplies to the mine site from town and/or the airport or port. In addition, minimal unscheduled pickup truck traffic will travel back and forth with emergency repair parts, staff, etc. Employee traffic could range from 40 personal vehicle trips.”

Nuuk camp owners had commented during the public meeting that they are concerned with dust kicked up by trucks going by their fish camps and fish racks every 90 minutes, and in all likelihood covering their drying fish with a blanket of dust. Loretta Bullard in her comment letter wrote, “Large trucks carrying heavy loads, traveling at high speeds will cause roads to become degraded, increase dust for subsistence campsites and also pose a safety concern in this busy area.” Bullard also requested reconsideration of the use of the chemical calcium chloride for dust control, “because of the likelihood that this chemical will settle on berries and greens, which can be picked for subsistence purposes and fish or meats, which are hung on the many subsistence drying racks in this area.”

The dust issue was not identified in ACG’s environmental impact document and neither was the question who will be responsible for snow removal on both Glacier Creek Road and the Nome-Council Highway. The document states, “Use of the existing Nome-Council Highway is consistent with the purpose and intent of the existing road. No measurable environmental

impact is anticipated along the road corridor from the transport of ore, equipment, and supply trucks between Big Hurrah and the Rock Creek facilities.”

The DOT spokesperson Shannon McCarthy said that dust is a problem statewide, but that there is no special mitigation planned for the increased traffic resulting from the haul trucks between Big Hurrah and the Rock Creek mill facility. McCarthy also said that she is not aware of snow removal arrangements. The increased costs to the DOT would have to be approved by the legislature and as of now, no proposals has been made to amend the budget to include extended snow removal to Big Hurrah or Glacier Creek Road exist, according to McCarthy.

Birding, tourism and quality of life

In his public comment, Peter Bente cautioned that the Nome-Council Road is a favored location for visiting tourists and bird-watchers. “My concern for this road system is highway safety and a high quality visitor experience for Nome tourists, especially bird-watchers,” Bente commented. Since bird watchers tend to focus on the unusual North American and Eurasian bird species rather than traffic, Bente suggested that the ore-carrying trucks traveling from Big Hurrah to Rock Creek should be aware of the roadside activity occurring primarily in May and June. “I supposed there won’t be any ruffled feathers, if there is cooperation,” Bente said. Bente suggests slow speeds and caravaning of big trucks to ensure highway safety, road signs to remind highway travelers and possible designating observation areas. “It will take a cooperative effort to help ensure that Nome maintains its reputation as a first class birding destination and allow this aspect of tourism and its economic benefits to the region,” Bente concluded.

NovaGold’s environmental impact document does not anticipate safety problems, stating, “Given the infrequency of the truck traffic on the highway, opportunities for viewing away from the road right-of-way, and the availability of the parking area near Safety Sound Inlet, no measurable impacts are anticipated on the tourist industry and bird watching opportunities.”

Others commented on the sheer experience of being able to view wildlife, ski, hike or mush dogs in the Snake River Valley and that the open-pit mine, constant traffic and noise will compromise the wilderness experience.

“Daily blasting, dust, noise from trucks and rock crushing will push wildlife away from the valley,” wrote musher and Snake River Valley cabin owner Chris Rowe. She reported that the test drilling for the road was audible up and down the valley. She voiced concern about possible water pollution, dust, air pollution and wrote that although it may seem that there is lots of country around Nome, only a few travel routes exist and, if compromised, restrict access to the back country. As an example, she wrote, “There is an open pit mine now between Anvil Mountain and Newton, which has closed the main snowmachine and dog team winter trail from Nome to the direct north. The pit makes traveling in that area dangerous. It is a 200- to 300-foot hole that was never filled back in,” Rowe wrote. She continued, “Nova

Gold has come into our community; what are they really offering us? The destruction of a beautiful scenic valley.”

“Show some respect for the beauty of the land they are about to blast and dig into and for the life around ground zero that is gradually being changed,” commented Rowe. She suggested to limit truck traffic during school bus pick-up and drop-off times; to put restrictions on blasting and trucking noise for weekends and holidays; and that NovaGold should “graciously provide land access across their claims that have been traditionally used in the 32 years I have been here...that is Osborn Road and the snow machine and dog trails in and out of Nome.”

The process

One permit dealing with section 404 of the Clean Water act is up for comment; the Alaska DNR has prepared a draft reclamation plan and six temporary water use permits and a fish habitat permit were up for review. The DNR was also in charge of reviewing the Alaska Coastal Management Programs consistency with the proposed project, inviting public comment. The Alaska Department of

Environmental Conservation drafted a waste management permit dealing with disposal of treated wastewater, tailings and other solid wastes. In addition, AGC’s environmental contractor, Bristol Environmental and Engineering, had for the past three years prepared hundreds of pages describing the project and drafting an environmental impact document of 341 pages.

The public was expected to comment on the proposal, the draft permits, the ACMP consistency review and match it up with thousands of pages of Alaska Administrative Code and federal and state laws to insightfully comment on the Rock Creek mining project.

Ahmasuk commented that the lack of an immediate environmental assessment or statement by the ACOE adds a heavy burden to the public. “ACOE may have abridged its responsibility to make the initial assessment or statement and has placed a tremendous burden on the public within a very short time frame to comment upon this very complicated project,” Ahmasuk said.

For more information on the project go to www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine.

Verbal comments made on June 26

Jim Rowe: “Gold companies have a poor track record here. There were a lot of promises made and not followed up. Who says you’re different?”

Doug Nicholson: “You’re comparing apples and oranges. Back then they had different standards. We started to clean up Alaska Gold Company land, we’re cleaning up our property and we want to be a responsible mining outfit. We post a reclamation bond of \$4.1 million until the reclamation is done.”

Roseann Timbers: “We will be here for a long, long time. Once the gold is gone, it’s gone, and we are left here with the consequences.”

Leo Rasmussen: “I am not the least worried about the impact on environment. Their intent is to stay around for long time. I do not fear mining activity coming back to this country.”

Austin Ahmasuk: “There is only little talk about cyanide. What is being portrayed to public is not the whole truth. Cyanide in this process very easily forms other complexes that can enter the environment, that can disassociate in ultraviolet light, enter the water and be major health hazard.”

Judy Martinson: “ I am very much in support of this mine coming in. If we don’t have some economic infusion, we’ll see an exodus happening. We have to trust in our state and government people. There are lots of laws that control mining. I place my trust in state regulation that they are a watchdog and overseeing that things are done right.”

Jim Hansen: “ We all appreciate the environment, but these folks are not going to destroy the Seward peninsula. There are challenges with every gold mine, but I bet you all the challenges have been studied, and all answers to all problems are known. Our water is not gonna be polluted. This is a modern gold mine, so we don’t have to worry about any disasters out there. I can only see one major problem and that is there are not more of them. We need more private industry. We need more commercial fishermen, we need more gold mines, we need more of everything.”

Josie Stiles: “I encourage that these mines will be available for tourists to visit. The history of mining is very important to Nome tourism. As the president of the Nome Arts Council, I appreciate the continued corporate donations that the Alaska Gold Company has made.”

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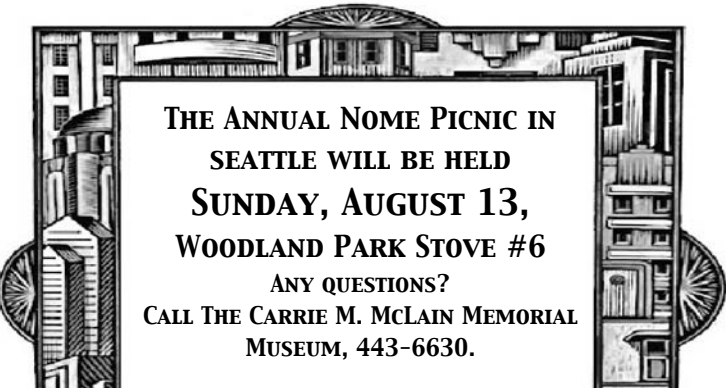
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The Anchorage office will be moving to a new location this summer. The Nome office will continue to remain open full time. Mark will continue to be in the office Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will keep you posted and let you know when the Anchorage office has moved.



THE ANNUAL NOME PICNIC IN SEATTLE WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, WOODLAND PARK STOVE #6 ANY QUESTIONS? CALL THE CARRIE M. McLAIN MEMORIAL MUSEUM, 443-6630.

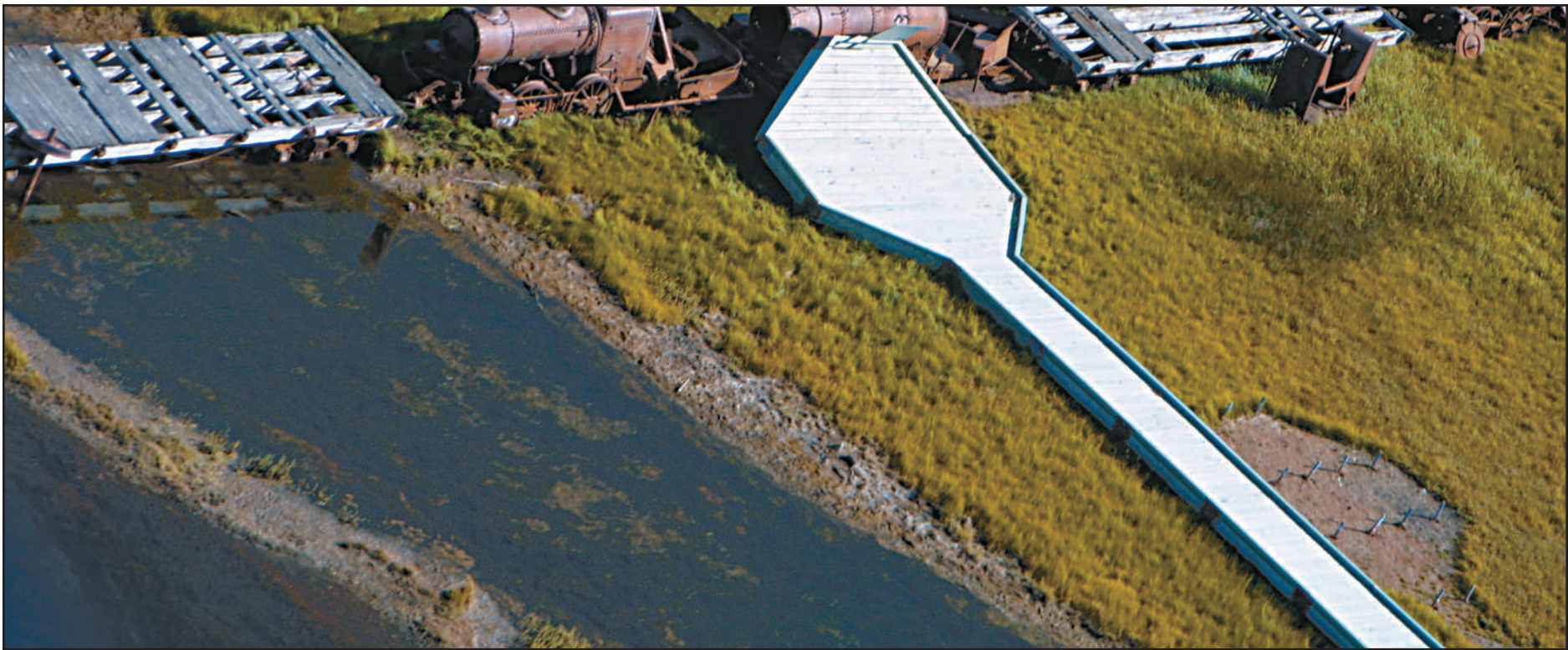


Photo by Nancy McGuire

OOPS — Aerial view of interpretive walkway at the Last Train to Nowhere jumped the tracks after last fall's storms.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 39 SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

Water expert: Natural barriers protect Moonlight Springs

By Sandra L. Medearis

Whether the proposed mining activity at Rock Creek involves Nome's water supply has Nome Common Council members' attention. Monday evening, a water expert retained by the city said the source at Moonlight Springs would be safe.

City leaders have been looking at proposed revisions to an ordinance

on use and tighter permits for activity in the Moonlight Springs area, using past studies, including one by Bristol Engineering of Anchorage done in 2004. Bristol Engineering also provided permitting research for Alaska Gold. Additionally, the City sought a third-party opinion from certified hydrologist Jim Munter of Anchorage on whether

continued on page 24

Corps says no need for an EIS for Rock Creek

By Diana Haecker

A request by the City of Nome and Nome citizens for an environmental impact statement to further study the cumulative effects Alaska Gold Company's Rock Creek mine may have on humans and the environment came too late, said United States Army Corps of Engineer North Section team leader Don Rice last week.

The request by the City of Nome

came August 15, the same day as the USACE issued its finding of no significant impact through an environmental assessment. The EA found that the Rock Creek and Big Hurrah mine and mill will not have a significant impact on the environment.

"Having reviewed the information provided by the applicant, all interested parties and the assess-

continued on page 4



Photo submitted by Sharon Keeney

RUN MIKEY RUN! — (front) Mikey Wongitillin of Nome runs like the wind as he comes off of the tundra trail followed closely by Point Hope, Kotzebue and Kiana runners during the Region 1 North cross-country run in Unalakleet last weekend. (See story page 17.)

Council approves final city budgets

By Ted Meyer

At the September 25th City Council meeting, final approval was given to five ordinances that amend the City of Nome budgets for fiscal year 2006. Final amendments were made to City budgets that include the General Fund (\$8,056,922), Capital Projects Fund (\$586,888), Special Revenue Fund (\$633,125), Port of Nome Fund (\$1,610,680), and Construction Capital Projects (3,985,712).

In other business, the Council gave final approval to an ordinance that amends the Nome Code of Ordinances to allow for the disposal of rights of reverter and reversionary interests in residential real property by City Council resolution, and without public bid. This ordinance was prompted by a request from resident Rita Anderson in an August Council meeting to release the City's right of reverter and reversionary interest on her property. The City's right of reverter refers to parcels of property deeded by the

City of Nome in the early 1980s. There were clauses in the sale that ensured the deeded property was developed for residential purposes only. The owners of these residential properties have had difficulty obtaining financing on the properties because of the City's interest. In a related action, the Council followed through and passed the resolution disposing of its right of reverter and reversionary interest to Rita Anderson and co-owner Rudy Krizak, Jr.

In new business, the Council passed a first reading of an ordinance that amends the Nome Code of Ordinances to delete the sales tax schedule and reference thereto. The schedule is obsolete as it is based on the previous four percent sales tax of the City. According to City Manager Randy Romenesko's written explanation, there is little indication that the schedule is actually used to calculate sales tax throughout the community. The schedule is being replaced with new language

that states that the seller shall apply the applicable sales tax percentage to the selling price and then add the amount of the sales tax to the selling price.

A first reading of an ordinance was passed that amends a chapter of the Nome Code of Ordinances regarding delinquent property taxes. The ordinance will change the penalty rate to a set rate of eight percent for all delinquencies, and will further clarify the process for accrual of penalty and interest. The current penalty rate for delinquencies is eight percent before October 15 and 10 percent after. The current problem for the City is keeping track of late payments charged at both penalty rates and the disagreements from property owners that may arise in the process.

A first reading of an ordinance was passed that amends a chapter of the Nome Code of Ordinances pertaining to the issuance of chauffeur's

continued on page 3



Photo submitted by Betsy Brennan

WE START THEM YOUNG! — John and Sarah Wade and buddy Dolly pose with their ducks after a successful hunt at Safety Sound last Friday evening.

•EIS

continued from page 1

ment of environmental impacts contained in part II of this document, I find this permit action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment,” wrote USACE, regulatory branch, Rock Creek project manager Jim Wolfe in the EA. The Corps determined that the project will not adversely affect essential fish habitat and other federally managed fishery resources.

The USACE’s involvement in the Rock Creek mine is to regulate dredge or fill material discharge into waters of the United States, often referred to Section 404 Clean Water Act.

The USACE is also supposed to consider the cumulative effects of the project.

After Nomeites packed Nome City Council chambers during a regular City Council meeting on August 14, voicing concerns about the proposed Rock Creek mine, the City Council directed City Manager Randy Romenesko to write to the USACE to request an EIS.

The request came after the public comment period on the project ended August 6.

Citizens also requested that an EIS be done during governor Frank Murkowski’s visit to Nome for a ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Glacier Creek Road on July 26. The \$8 million road was build under the “Roads to Resources” program to access the mine.

“I am concerned that we didn’t have a picture of the whole project and only learned about it piece-meal,” said Jana Varrati. Varrati is a Nomeite concerned about the mine proposal. “An EIS would have helped to give us an in-depth overview of issues so we could make informed comments,” she said.

Varrati explained that she, like so many others, didn’t know about the extent of the mine and mill complex until the public hearing.

North region USACE team leader Don Rice visited Nome last week and gave an interview with *The Nome Nugget* outlining the public participation and the USACE’s implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act.

“We based our decision on comments received at the public hearing that was held up here in Nome,” said Rice. “I was under the impression that the large majority of the people there were in support of the project.”

Despite 15 letters of concern to DNR and DEC, after the Glacier Creek Road protest and a letter by the EPA requesting an EIS, the USACE didn’t see any red flags raised and issued the FONSI and the 404 permit.

“We decided that this project did not require an EIS because the state has certified the project under the 401 permit. The Environmental Protection Agency has oversight over this, and if they didn’t like it,

they could’ve stepped in and stopped the project right then and there,” said Rice.

Rice continued to say that it is also the state’s mandate to look at water issues. “We get comments from the state agencies, and if they don’t raise red flags with us, unless there is an immense community outpour opposing the project, we’re gonna sign off on it as a project that doesn’t need an EIS,” he said.

While the state departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Federal agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service did not have any concerns, the Environmental Protection Agency commented with the suggestion to prepare an EIS.

Deborah Blank with the EPA wrote in a public comment letter, “We believe that permitting a project of this size and potential impacts could be considered to constitute a major federal action and suggest that an Environmental Impact Statement might be the most appropriate tool to assess the direct and cumulative impacts of a project of this magnitude.”

Rice said that the letter did not quote specific statutes. “If the EPA had major concerns, they would have sent us a 3(a) letter,” explained Rice. An 3(a) letter, he said, immediately raises a red flag. “The EPA did not recommend a denial of the project,” said Rice. “They have oversight on the Clean Water Act, but we did not get a denial.”

Rice said, “They didn’t show any evidence to merit an EIS.”

EPA has a veto right, but according to Deborah Blank, this is only done when a project effects a fishery or habitat of national importance. “Still we think there should have been an EIS done,” says Blank.

The National Environmental Policy Act Section specifies that if there is public controversy about a project, public review of the FONSI should be made available for public review if the proposal is controversial. Rice said that the USACE did not see any evidence that the project was controversial. “In this case, there was not a controversial issue about water. The DEC and the large mine task force issued their 401 certification, so there was no public concern over water quality in this case,” Rice said.

NEPA regulations also call for public availability of the findings of no significant impact and EAs. Rice explained that the Environmental Assessment is not published on the USACE’s website, but available to the public. “All you have to do if you want any kind of document from federal and state agencies is to request in writing and we send it to you,” Rice said. For more information go to www.poa.usace.army.mil/rig (See related story on page 8.)

•Council

continued from page 3

replied no, he wasn’t aware of any.

The Council also passed a motion to approve the request of \$1,500 from the Nome Senior Squadron Civil Air Patrol. The CAP is currently in the process of obtaining a charter for the Nome Squadron. Funds are needed to help pay for startup costs.

During the Citizen’s Request and Grievance Period, Jim Munter, a groundwater geologist hired by the City, gave a presentation on the results of his study on potential impacts of the Rock Creek Mine on the City’s water source at Moonlight Wells. (See related article regarding Munter’s conclusions).

Nome Utility Manager John Handeland reported that he and Utility Board Chairwoman Berda Wilson traveled to Washington D.C. last week to lobby for more power plant funding. He also reported that funding from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation was received this week to pay for this summer’s water and sewer project.

Handeland stated the power out-

age that occurred last Sunday was supposed to last for only 15 minutes. During the work, however, utility workers found wiring and corrosion problems that needed attention.

Councilman Jerald Brown asked Handeland if there was sufficient power plant capacity to accommodate the Rock Creek Mine. Handeland replied yes, but they may have to add another generator in the future.

City Manager Randy Romenesko reported that final inspection of the Port Project has taken place and the project is now officially complete.


Romenesko mentioned that the Youth Forum held last week regarding youth issues was well received by the community. He stated that folks brought a wealth of information to the town meeting.

There will be a Planning Commission meeting at City Hall on Monday, October 2 at 6 p.m. that will focus on the new zoning code ordinance. Romenesko encouraged community members to attend. The zoning code refers to the regulated use of land within city limits.


Old St. Joseph Hall has been reserved on October 4 by Chris Rowe for a discussion of the Rock Creek Mine Project. The guest speaker will be Dave Chambers from the Center for Science in Public Participation who has worked extensively on mining issues.

Mayor Denise Michels reported she communicated with the Department of Energy regarding the Nome electrical power analysis study. Funding is now available to study power and space heat strategies for Nome and other communities. Michels is also working with the Alaska Municipal League on energy policy.

Mayor Michels ended the meeting by acknowledging the 2006 Rotary Citizen of the Year Award, which was given to both Jim Dory and Carol Gales. In the award, Dory and Gales were recognized for organizing the Nome Folk Festival for the last six years, their continued involvement in other community musical events, and for their contributions to the Nome Arts Council.



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Photo by Diana Haecker

SNAKE RIVER VALLEY— The view of the slopes of Mt. Brynteson pictured here from Glacier Creek shows brilliant fall colors. The dark area shows soil that has been moved in preparation to build the Rock Creek mine and mill site.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 40 OCTOBER 5, 2006



Photo by Diana Haecker

SECURING THE AREA— Nome ambulance chief Charlie Lean and Nome police officer Bryan Weyauvanna watch as the Q Trucking crew hoist a seatainer lost in transport from the port to Satellite Field. The load had not been secured and fell off a truck at the corner of Seppala Drive and Center Creek Road. (See story page 8.)

Teller man goes on rampage

By Diana Haecker

A 19-year-old Teller man went on a stabbing rampage on Monday in Teller, leaving one man and a dog injured. According to investigating State Trooper Paul Kosto, the injuries on the person are not life threatening.

According to State Troopers, Shawn Pushruk had entered the Teller school while it was in session on Monday afternoon around 2:30 p.m. and assaulted a contract maintenance man from Anchorage with a meat cleaver.

Pushruk slashed the school maintenance man in the back at least twice. Troopers say that Pushruk had also chased another person with a knife and a meat cleaver, and threatened a third person and threw rocks at him. Pushruk also stabbed his uncle's dog while it was on a chain.

The school went into lockdown mode and made contact with the AST post in Nome. Troopers were notified at 2:45 p.m., and responded with three troopers driving to Teller. Once there, they apprehended

Pushruk in an abandoned house. Kosto said Pushruk resisted arrest at first. "But once he was in handcuffs, he cooperated," said Kosto.

The 19-year-old was transported to Nome and booked into the Anvil Mountain Correctional Center.

Kosto said, "At this stage in the investigation we believe there was alcohol involved." No other details about the motive and what led up to the stabbing rampage were available at press time. Kosto said the investigation continues.

NSHC names new CEO

Trevor Colby is the new president/CEO of Norton Sound Health Corporation. He will start work on October 16. He replaces former CEO Dennis Tiepelman who was fired last month.

Colby was employed at NSHC from 2002-2003 as the vice-president of Community Health Services. His education includes a

Master's degree in Human Services/Administration and a bachelor's degree in Human Services/Counseling, as well as holding a full time law enforcement certification in Vermont. He has experience in financial planning and budget management, policy interpretation, personnel management and organizational develop-

ment

Board Chair Emily Hughes says, "We are pleased Trevor has agreed to accept the position as chief executive. He is a strong leader with extensive knowledge of the region and NSHC."

DEC says no to citizens request for stay

By Diana Haecker

A request for stay of the Rock Creek mine's waste management permit and the 401 Clean Water Act certification was shot down by the Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Water director Lynn Kent.

Kent responded last Friday in a letter to Nomeite Austin Ahmasuk and 27 co-signers',

"Based upon my review of your request and the Department's records on this matter overall, I have decided not to stay the effect

of the permit decision."

Ahmasuk said in response to the denied stay, "I am generally pleased that State of Alaska took the time to review my request. However, I am not very pleased about how the state came about its decision."

Ahmasuk said that Kent relied on information contained within previous technical memos generated in January and March of this year without additional analysis. "I'm also not very pleased that the state has not done its part. The public

continued on page 5

ELECTION RESULTS WILL BE HERE - NANCY WILL SEND THIS EVENING - LATE.
2 X 3.5 SPOT



Photo by Chris Blount

FIRST SNOW — Last Friday morning, residents of Icy View woke up to a beautiful view to the west with the first noticeable snow holding tight to the leaves of the tundra plants.

•DEC



Photo by Diana Haecker

OFF LIMITS— Construction of the Rock Creek mine and mill complex began and signs are posted to keep unauthorized persons off the property.

continued from page 1

raised a lot of concerns, which found their way into permit stipulations. A quarter portion of our concerns were recognized by the state. What really appalls me is why the state didn't discover the concerns before we raised them. It seems like they're not doing their job."

Ahmasuk said that his concerns about public notices received only an unsatisfactory response. Chapter 18 of the Alaska Administrative Code, part 15 says that "the department will publish two consecutive notices of the application in a newspaper of general circulation in the area that would be affected by the operation, and in other media the department considers appropriate to achieve sufficient public notice."

Public notice advertisements appeared on June 1 and June 22 in the *Nome Nugget*. While Ahmasuk questioned the apparent gap between the first and second notice, Kent answered, "The department

acknowledges there could be disagreement about the meaning of the term consecutive as used in 18 AAC 15.050(a). However, it is clear that the term modifies the word "notices", not the word "newspapers".

Kent said in her decision, "The two public notices were consecutive in the sense that one followed the other, even though they were not published in consecutive issues of the *Nome Nugget*."

Ahmasuk also addressed the lack of standards and safeguards for the waste management in general; the dust control issue; lack of standards and safeguards for acid rock drainage generation; water anti-degradation; Rock Creek surface testing and the lack of monitoring water at the toe of the tailings facility.

Kent acknowledged that the State's consultant Dr. Jay McNee of Lorax Environmental concluded that sampling showed a potential to

generate acid and metal leaching, but that "careful management could mitigate this potential."

Ahmasuk brought up that tests done by AGC to test for acid potential did not conform to the industry standard EPA sourcebook. Kent responded, "ADEC relied on Department staff and the expertise of it's consultant Dr Jay McNee to evaluate the adequacy and accuracy of AGC's acid testing program.[...] EPA's 2003 sourcebook was not specifically used in this evaluation; rather, an approach using the best available practice was used by the consultant."

Kent concluded that McNee's analysis used to evaluate the acid rock testing was based on "reasonable assumptions and is representative of anticipated conditions".

In closing, Kent said that based on her review, she didn't see changes to the permit language necessary.

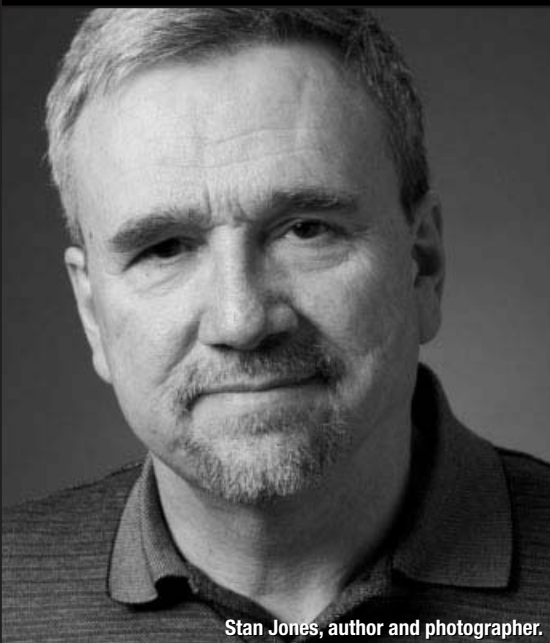
However, she directed her staff to have AGC modify and the division of water to approve the monitoring plan to include monitoring of water quality in the tailings storage facility and the seepage collected from

the toe of the TSF.

Voicing concerns about the job the state does to protect its citizens and Alaska's waters, Ahmasuk said, "I think it's really peculiar that after the comment period, the permit conditions were modified based on our concerns. If none of us had raised concerns the permits would look differently. Isn't the state responsible to protect us? I don't think they have done their job."

Asked if he plans to appeal Kent's decision, Ahmasuk said that he is not sure yet. "I have 30 days to think about it," he said.

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For assistance and referrals, call the Senior Information Hot Line: 1-800-478-6065

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The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
www.mhtrust.org

A message from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and our partner board, the Alaska Commission on Aging.

Christmas at Nome Joint Utility

By Sandra L. Medearis

The federal government has awarded Nome Joint Utilities \$2.5 million to bring the new power plant to the ribbon cutting ceremony slated for early next spring. The money comes from the Dept. Of Agriculture's high energy cost grant funds under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

"This is the final piece of the funding package and could allow us to complete the project with very little additional local contribution," NJU's manager John Handeland told utility board members meeting Sept. 28.

And that's not all. The cash register kept ringing Thursday night as Handeland announced the arrival of more money in response to utility and City lobbying efforts in Juneau and Washington, D.C., along with midnight-oil grant writing at the NJU office. Legislature's capital budget appropriation of \$4 million has made it through the budget process to Nome for the power plant.

NJU is replacing its 40-year-old generation facility that stands in the flood plain and within the airport runway zone. The new facility upgrades to new, more efficient and reliable Wartsila generators from

Finland and new switch gear. This system will be intertied to an off-site generator to provide emergency backup power.

And that's not all. The state Department of Environmental Conservation is offering a grant of \$2.2 million for work ongoing with Nome's water and sewer infrastructure. The city will have to ante up a match for this contribution, but Handeland assured NJU board members that we could offer work already done on the system as an in-kind match. This money comes from about \$1.6 million in federal USDA Rural Development money and \$542,500 in state money. NJU has already accepted a loan from Department of Agriculture for \$2.3 million for water and sewer upgrades.

In other good news, the state DEC has accepted NJU's oil discharge prevention and contingency plan for review effective September 25. NJU has sent the required copies of the plan to state Dept. of Fish and Game, state Dept. of Natural Resources, and the local Coastal Zone Management Office. The public will have 30 days for comment after the required notice in the newspaper.

Lee's Gold Camp, Last Train to Nowhere, and Safety Roadhouse. On Saturday, Nova Gold was scheduled to give tours of the Rock Creek and Big Hurrah Project. These and other tours were closed to the press and public.

Board members were responsible for funding their own accommodations and airline tickets and schedules allowed board members time to spend money in local restaurants and shops. However, some of the weekend's events were sponsored by other entities. Dinner at St. Joseph Hall Friday night was sponsored by Nome Joint Utility.

•REC

continued from page 4

business opportunities, local economy and major issues in Nome including a talk by Doug Nicholson of NovaGold. Afterwards board members asked questions and offered advice to Nicholson on how to increase the feasibility of hiring people from local villages at the Rock Creek Mine.

Bus tours Friday and Saturday were scheduled to take visitors to the new port, Norton Sound Seafood Plant, the "Golden Beaches", the Seawall, the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, the Solomon Historic Dredge Area,

AVIS CAR HERE sent to Anc Print to place



Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

NEW SCHOOL SITE — Looking down from the hill called White Mountain onto the town of White Mountain, the cleared area in the foreground is being prepared for building the new school.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 42 OCTOBER 19, 2006



Photo by Diana Haecker

THE STORM— During high tide on Monday afternoon, the water level rose to a 5.9 feet above mean low water level. On the east beach, the waves washed out sand and spat out junk they had picked up elsewhere.

Nome Hosts 2006 CHARR Convention

By Tara McCaw

Members of the Alaska Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailers Association traveled to Nome earlier this week to participate in the 36th Annual CHARR Convention taking place from October 16 to 19.

According to the organization's mission statement, "The Alaska Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant and Retailers Association is dedicated to serving the needs of the hospitality industry in the state of Alaska. The Association provides training programs, membership services, legislative and government relations, informational services, and promotes the industry for its members." Alaska CHARR is a non-profit

organization that was established in 1968 and currently has affiliate organizations in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Ketchikan, Juneau/Lynn Canal, Nome, Sitka and the Kenai Peninsula.

CHARR members participating in this year's convention in Nome will elect board members, take care of organizational business, attend award ceremonies, and have the opportunity to meet fellow CHARR members. The Alaska CHARR Annual Report was scheduled to be presented on Tuesday morning, and Ed Tinsley, the convention's keynote speaker, was scheduled to give the "National Restaurant Association Chairman Address" on

Wednesday morning.

Several other convention speakers were scheduled to give presentations on various subjects of interest to CHARR members including civil liabilities, underage drinking, "Guerilla Marketing" for restaurants, and the three-tier system.

The itinerary for the four-day convention in Nome allowed for plenty of time for visitors to enjoy Nome's establishments and see local sites. The convention kicked-off Monday night with an Icebreaker Reception at Polaris Bar and the finale event is a cocktail party and \$10,000 raffle drawing planned for Thursday night at the Bering Sea Saloon.

Test storm coming through

By Diana Haecker

On Saturday afternoon October 14, the National Weather Service alerted Norton Sound residents to take precautions due to a coastal flood watch. Radio announcements cautioned the public to pull up boats and prepare for a potential flood in low-lying coastal areas. Winds up to 60 mph were forecast, and this message sent people scurrying to take care of that old plywood that

could fly around or pull up the suction dredges still sitting on the beach across from Swanberg Dredge. But the storm panned out less severe than it threatened to be, and the NWS could downgrade the warning on Monday morning to a high surf advisory.

Wes Adkins, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Nome said that peak windgusts were measured at 43 mph from a south-

easterly direction around 9 a.m. on Monday. "The strongest wind blew between 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Monday and then it started calming down," Adkins said. The highest sustained winds did not surpass 33 mph.

Water surging in with the high tide on Monday afternoon at 1:12 p.m. did not flood any parts of

continued on page 20

Barrick extends NovaGold takeover offer again

By Diana Haecker

For the third time since its initial hostile takeover bid of NovaGold Resources Inc. on July 24, Barrick Gold extended its deadline. This time NovaGold has until October 24 to accept Barrick's \$1.5 billion offer.

NovaGold claims the offer at \$14.50 per share grossly undervalues NovaGold's assets.

Barrick announced the extension on October 12.

"As our long-term shareholders know, NovaGold has always focused on shareholder value and has delivered a compound annual

shareholder return of 70 percent over the past seven years," said Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse, president and CEO of NovaGold. "Holders of more than 99 percent of our shares continue to solidly reject Barrick's US\$14.50 bid as wholly inadequate for NovaGold's world-class assets and production potential, and have given NovaGold management the mandate to continue to grow shareholder returns."

NovaGold said in a press release that the company has achieved several major milestones over the past few months, including the start of

continued on page 4

Kawerak board presses for Rock Creek environmental oversight committee

By Diana Haecker

During last month's full board meeting of Kawerak Inc., tribal council presidents of the 20 tribes of the Bering Strait region passed a motion pressing for an environmental monitoring oversight committee of Alaska Gold Company's Rock Creek and Big Hurrah mining operations.

In a letter to the Alaska Gold Company, Loretta Bullard, president of Kawerak, informed NovaGold Alaska vice president and general manager Doug Nicholson that the mines were discussed among board members and

that a motion was passed "that Kawerak encourages Nova Gold to form a committee to oversee environmental monitoring for the Rock Creek and Big Hurrah projects." The motion suggests that the environmental committee should consist of representatives from NovaGold, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, the City of Nome, Nome Eskimo Community, Solomon Native Corporation, Kawerak and perhaps Sitnasuak.

continued on page 5



Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

TRIPLETS— The village of Golovin increased its population by three in June. Irene Sockpealuk of Golovin recently brought home her triplets born June 2 in Anchorage; Kaylee Rose Fagerstrom born 3:15 p.m. weighing 3 lbs., 9 oz.; Madison Claire Fagerstrom born 3:16 p.m. weighing 4 lbs., 7 oz.; Ethan John Fagerstrom born 3:17 p.m. weighing 3 lbs. 12 oz. Proud siblings are Tracy, 19; Covey, 17; Shendlyn, 13; and Trevor, 8. Proud grandmother is Alice Fagerstrom of Golovin.

•Barrick

continued from page 1

construction on its mine in Nome; a significant update of its gold, silver and copper resources; conversion of inferred resources to measured and indicated resources at Galore Creek and Nome Gold based on 2005 drilling results; and completion of several key permitting steps at the Galore Creek copper-gold-silver project.

“This is an exciting time for the company, and we are working on many fronts to deliver enhanced shareholder value. What Barrick has failed to recognize is that NovaGold shareholders will compare any offer to purchase the company against the value inherent in the company’s assets, and its potential future value as a low-cost gold and copper producer,” Van Nieuwenhuys continued. “NovaGold represents exceptional investment value, and our shareholders recognize that opportunity. We have received tremendous support from our shareholders, and we intend to reward that support by continuing to deliver outstanding shareholder returns.”

Despite the optimistic tone, NovaGold shares dropped about 22 cents, or 1.2 percent, to CAD\$17.46 on the Toronto stock exchange last Friday while Barrick gained 85 cents, or 2.6 percent, to CAD\$33.07.

On Friday, NovaGold also released its third quarter financial statement, blaming the increased loss to \$4.7 million in legal and advisory costs incurred in the quarter after Barrick made its unsolicited bid in June and spoiling NovaGold’s takeover bid for Pioneer Metals Corp. Pioneer was also bought up by Barrick recently. NovaGold accuses Barrick of trying to snap up the company’s interest in their Donlin Creek joint venture in southwestern Alaska for less than its true value.

“We are providing additional time for NovaGold shareholders to consider our offer which we believe should be substantially more attractive to NovaGold shareholders today than when it was announced in late July,” said Barrick’s Greg Wilkins, president and CEO. “The premium all-cash offer has insulated NovaGold shareholders from recent declines in gold prices and gold equities,” he said.

Wilkins justified the \$14.50 offer per share with arguments that the gold price has declined by approximately US\$40 per ounce, that NovaGold has not been successful in attracting another bidder despite running a full auction and that Barrick believes that NovaGold has been unable to demonstrate any additional value for its projects that was not well known before Barrick’s offer.

“NovaGold recently released its preliminary economic assessment for the Donlin Creek project. Barrick believes this assessment

uses very optimistic assumptions which could not be supported by a thorough feasibility study. It simply demonstrates that Donlin Creek is a challenging project, which will require a company of Barrick’s size, financial strength and development expertise to complete on an economic basis. This is especially true, given the large number of variables that arise over the lengthy period leading to commercial production. NovaGold itself now suggests Donlin Creek will not begin production until 2013, underscoring the complexities of the project’s development,” said a Barrick press release.

Barrick is seeking to consolidate its interest in the Donlin Creek project in Alaska and acquire 100 percent of the Galore Creek project in British Columbia, Canada. Barrick values the proposed transaction at approximately US\$1.3 billion or approximately US\$1.5 billion on a fully diluted basis.

According to a Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee, a US organization to advocate and undertake litigation against illegal collusion to control the price and supply of gold and related financial securities, Barrick is the equivalent of Star Wars’ Evil Empire that needs to be defeated. GATA sees the Barrick bid for NovaGold as the biggest thing in the gold world at this time. GATA accuses Barrick of suppressing the global price of gold for a long time in collaboration with the world’s central banks. GATA’s chairman Bill Murphy wrote on the GATA website on August 9, “Barrick Gold confessed to the gold price suppression scheme in U.S. District Court in New Orleans on February 28, 2003, when it filed a motion to dismiss Blanchard and Co.’s anti-trust lawsuit charging that Barrick was doing exactly what its motion admitted. The motion said that in borrowing gold from central banks and selling it, Barrick had become the agent of the central banks in the gold market, and, as the agent of the central banks, shared their sovereign immunity and thus could not be sued.”

A report by the International Monetary Fund confirms that central banks treat gold in the vault and gold receivables as the same line item. This means that gold loaned out or swapped to be sold into the market to suppress the gold price has been “invisible” to gold market participants, as it still appears on the central banks’ balance sheet as if it were in the bank vault. This gives a totally erroneous and deceptive impression of an abundant supply of gold when in fact mine supply cannot meet demand.

GATA consultant Adrian Douglas, also a substantial NovaGold shareholder, wrote on the GATA website, “If gold had only kept pace with inflation it would now be at \$2,000 per ounce, quite apart from the upward influ-

ence on the price of shrinking supply and increasing demand. A gold price like that would value NovaGold at \$145 per share, not the \$14.5 offered by Barrick. That is, Barrick is complicit in the scheme that has caused NovaGold to be 90 percent undervalued. So it is unthinkable then that Barrick should be allowed to acquire NovaGold at that price.”

NovaGold had enlisted the help of GATA to join in the fight against Barrick’s takeover. “If Barrick is forced to pay up for NovaGold, it will be a landmark deal that will affect the takeover of other gold companies,” wrote Murphy. “The price of gold is going to go nuts in the years ahead. The only reason the price of gold is not at least twice what it is today is because of the heinous and corrupt Gold Cartel. They must not be allowed to profit from this corruption,” wrote Murphy. “Barrick is going to pay a dear price for being what it is and for what it has done to help the Gold Cartel keep the gold price down. For starters, and we are only warming up, GATA would like its army to contact NovaGold’s major shareholders to oppose the Barrick offer for the reasons cited above.”

In the white collar world of shareholders and investors, mines are discussed in terms of measured and inferred ounces and whether or not the mine sites are in a political no-risk environment. According to the hostile exchange of words on Barrick, NovaGold and GATA websites, the issue for shareholders revolves around the right value, business practices and global manipulation of the gold market. Nome, Donlin Creek and the Galore mines are all judged to be situated in politically low-risk environments — presumably in mining-friendly communities — and are progressing in different stages toward production.



Photo submitted by Barbara Amarok

WOOD WONDER —Beautiful cutting boards were made by (from left) Bonnie Savok, Valerie Kakaruk, Kim Gilder, Kyle Griemsmann and Ricky Wideman in Mr. Sullivan’s wood shop class at Nome-Beltz.

•Kawerak

continued from page 1

“The Committee would be responsible for reviewing the environmental testing process, hearing reports on the testing results and making recommendations to insure that our environment, upon which we all depend, is kept clean,” Bullard wrote.

According to the letter, the committee would stand “for the life of the projects.”

The Kawerak board also made a motion to recommend to NovaGold to contract with Kawerak to do environmental testing.

“The reason we are suggesting that Kawerak be contracted with — is that we don’t have a fiscal interest in the mine and mining operations — and thus be unbiased in gathering and presenting the environmental testing results,” wrote Bullard.

She added that this would provide the public with a greater sense of trust in the environmental monitoring.

Alaska Gold Company vice president and general manager Doug Nicholson said in response to Kawerak’s proposal, “There is a management oversight committee in place with members of the company and the landowners, being Sitnasuak and Bering Straits Native Corporation. We have a management structure in place and it’s taken care of.”

Nicholson also added that contracting with Kawerak is not an option, since all testing data is sent out to a third party laboratory. “We’ve been always open about the test results. Any results we turn in are required as part of the permit stipulations. It’s all submitted to the state and it’s public information accessible to everyone.”

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Mining expert comments on Rock Creek

Part II of a series
Dr. David Chambers, founder of the Montana based non-profit organization Center for Science in Public Participation, visited Nome recently to hold a public presentation on hard rock mining and NovaGold/Alaska Gold Company’s proposed Rock Creek mine. Chambers spoke with *The Nome Nugget* reporter Diana Haecker about mining practices and some concerns specifically related to the Rock Creek mine near Nome.

NN: Could you tell us a bit more about the technical aspects of the proposed dam breach upon closure?

DC: So, Charlotte [MacCay] came up to me after the talk, and I said that I think there wasn’t very good information there about that the tailings dam is going to be breached after the operation closed. If that were the case, then the one in 475-year design event that I criticized would be appropriate because the dam doesn’t have to stay there in perpetuity, but it also raises a number of other issues.

First of all, what is the physical stability of the tailings? Second of all, what is the geochemical stability of the tailings? Because now, if they breach the dam, the tailings become free draining to the environment, and when you subject material to floatation, which all the tailings will be subjected to, there are minor chemical changes due to that.

The floatation process itself isn’t a very aggressive process. But if I read their information correctly, 13 percent of the tailings will go through cyanidation. That is a very aggressive chemical process, and there are chemical changes to the rock. I mean you’re dissolving

“...we trusted the agencies to do a proper analysis and make these decisions and protect us and be prepared for not only these potential environmental problems but also be prepared for bankruptcies and the agencies have fallen down in all of those cases.”

- Dave Chambers

gold, so you are dissolving a lot of other things, and a lot more metals end up in solution in the cyanidation process than you would get if you just washed the raw material, which is what happens in placer mining; or if you just subject to floatation—which is basically water plus a number of different organic chemicals, some of which are toxic.

They aren’t as toxic as cyanide, they aren’t as toxic as metals that are both chemically and naturally liberated when the ore oxidizes, but you can’t ignore the toxicity, especially the first flush of water through the material that comes through the tailings and runs out of them. Then all that material is fairly fresh and fairly concentrated.

So I went back and looked in the EID that was submitted by the company to the state, and I found two minor mentions of breaching of the dam. So I don’t feel that I was negligent in realizing it so late. It becomes a whole different animal for me now.

This is sort of a pseudo-heap leach operation now, in the sense that they’re not actively heap leaching on the tailings, but like the heap leach operation, you’re left with tailings that have been subjected to a chemical process and are now pretty much free-draining to the environment.

In Montana, where we have a number of these heap leach operations, these heap leaches are pretty problematic, because we have a lot of water in Montana, and we have a lot of water here in Alaska and it can get flushed. In all fairness, we are dealing with more acid generation potential in most of these Montana mines than those that are here in Alaska. But again, the chemical process, nature and free leach-

ing, free draining – the end product in the process, in this case the tailings, are something that I would like to look much more closely at.

I did look at the humidity cell tests data that they presented, and the levels of arsenic in the tailings are significantly high even at the end of the test, after some 40 weeks of leaching. So what that tells me is that arsenic is definitely something that has to be looked at very carefully.

I think, and I’ve got to go back and check, the environmental document actually says that there will be levels of arsenic, and I think of antimony too, coming from the tailings that would exceed water quality standards. So the next question would be, all right, how are you gonna deal with this?

In a permitting sense, first of all it’s a question for DEC. The DEC has the authority to allow the company mixing zones, both in surface water and in ground water, that may be in solution there. But I think from an environmental analysis standpoint, the point that I am making in criticizing the process and asking for a full EIS is that those are questions that should be answered now, and I think there are answers to them, but I don’t think they should be left for further resolution after the operation has been already permitted. I just don’t think that it is good policy. And to carry that thought to a logical extreme, if that’s the way we’re gonna do business, if we’re gonna permit first and

figure out these crucial answers later, why not issue the permits and do no environmental analysis? Just let our technical professionals and the state and the Army Corps of Engineers

take care of it?

To answer my own question: Because it hasn’t worked in the past. We’ve had problems with mines, we trusted the agencies to do a proper analysis and make these decisions and protect us and be prepared for not only these potential environmental problems but also be prepared for bankruptcies, and the agencies have fallen down in all of those cases. And that has happened in Alaska. So, that’s why I argue that the public needs to be involved in this environmental review process, that we need to have proper analysis and appropriate time.

NN: Can you say in which instances an Alaskan mine went bad?

DC: I think for environmental analysis, Greens Creek mine is a good example, where the initial projections that were done with regards to an EIS, as a matter of fact, that said that the tailings at Greens Creek are not acid generating. They ARE acid generating. It said no acid generating rock would be placed on the surface at Greens Creek. There IS acid generating waste rock at Greens Creek placed on the surface of Greens Creek. So now we’re going have to go back and have to figure out how we’re going to deal with those issues.

With regard to reclamation, there has been one bankruptcy of a chemical process — it actually was a heap leach mine — the Illinois Creek mine, and there was insufficient reclamation surety held by the State of Alaska to close the mine. They had to actually keep operating it, in order to generate enough funds to close it. And that’s not the way it’s supposed to work. The company

continued on page 7

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Initiative NO. 05LEGS
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This initiative would reduce the maximum length of a regular legislative session from 121 days to 90 days.
SHOULD THIS INITIATIVE BECOME LAW?

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 2
Initiative NO. 05GAS2
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This initiative would levy a new state tax on certain oil and gas leases overlying large deposits of natural gas. The tax rate would be three cents a year per thousand cubic feet of taxable gas in the ground. Leaseholders who dispute the levy of the tax or the amount owed will have to deposit the disputed amount into an escrow account until the dispute is resolved. A leaseholder subject to the new tax could avoid paying the tax by giving up rights under oil and gas leases by December 31, 2006. When a major gas pipeline system is built and gas is transported, the resource tax will be repealed. After the repeal, the initiative provides for tax credits for some of these taxes previously paid, which could be used to reduce future production taxes owed by leaseholders on their gas.
SHOULD THIS INITIATIVE BECOME LAW?

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Media That Matters

• Chambers

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that was running the mine went bankrupt and the state and or the federal agencies have an agreement to jointly hold reclamation sureties and they are supposed to have enough surety on hand to close that mine at the point a bankruptcy were to occur so that it wouldn't cause any significant environmental damage.

Well, they didn't have enough money on hand. Why? Because there is a tendency on the part of regulators and on the part of companies who provide all the initial detailed reclamation estimates to regulators to underestimate those. And it's easy to see why. It's expensive and you try to minimize expense. And if a regulator complains that a company is underestimating the cost, they open themselves to criticism. The Center for Science in Public Participation has done detailed analyses of all the reclamation bonds in the state. And we still think the state is still significantly underbonded. We published a paper on that and I'm going to give a presentation [at an EPA mining conference] on that next month in Tucson. We were concerned and wanted to take a quantitative look at that, and we have, and I stand behind that information.

NN: In your opinion, was the public adequately involved from your review of the situation? What does normally take place?

DC: Rather than saying that corners were cut, I'd say that the process was just incomplete. It stopped short. With the data that I reviewed, I would've expected the agencies to go back to NovaGold to say we need more information before we put this out for public comment. And in fact the agencies did do that in the sense that they required more testing of particular acid base accounting at Big Hurrah – but they already issued the permits. So I as a member of the public myself I have no opportunity to comment on what the results of those test are before they issue a permit. That's a done deal.

NN: How do you feel your concerns were answered in the DNR's response to comments?

DC: I reviewed the response to comments, and most of the responses fit one of two categories. The most frustrating one is: "We're gonna look into this later." I heard that response to several of my issues. And the second response is: "We don't agree with you." All right, I'm willing to accept that there are other opinions out there. And if it comes down to one professional opinion versus another, I guess I can ultimately say one of two things. Either: you are right, or you were wrong, and I told you so. But the frustrating part is when they say, "We'll take care of this later." They have an obligation to do that now, not later.

Can't it be done right? Yes. Can I say something is going to go wrong? Well, yes, there are going to be things going wrong. We already had one transportation accident. And the question to that is "How do you respond to those? How do you fix them?" Red Dog, unfortunately is a bad example. They had water quality issues in 1990, and it took over a year for the company to admit that they were responsible for that problem, and that's not good. So the company can't say, "we're not gonna have any problems", because they don't know that. And I can't say they will have serious problems, because I don't know that either.

The community has to decide whether the risk – whatever those risks might be – are worth it to the community, and that's where you go beyond the technical standpoint. Now you have to factor economic and social issues in there. Of course, that's what everybody is struggling with at those meetings. I'm trying to be technical, but you have to take all three of them into consideration.

When you build the mine you

got surface disturbance that is not going to go away. You are going to have waste piles and tailings piles, and they pose some risk because of the chemical nature of each of them. We are reaping the economic benefits and social costs and benefits, but we're leaving some liability, big or little, for future generations, and they don't realize the same benefits that we do.

NN: The permits are issued and construction is underway. What can the public do that ensures that they are involved from this?

DC: I think the public needs to stay involved with the mine. People that are concerned need to ask their public regulators how this mine is going, and if they're told it's going fine, ask, "How do you know it's going fine? Can you show me the data and explain to me the data that proves to you that everything is fine and going as planned?" If they can do that, that's good, if they can't, then keep pressing.

NN: Thank you.

BLM reviews public comments on Kobuk-Seward Peninsula plan

By Diana Haecker

The federal Bureau of Land Management is in the process of reviewing public comments on its proposed Kobuk-Seward peninsula resource management plan.

According to BLM planning documents, the plan is needed to update the Northwest Management Framework Plan from 1982. The areas affected are 13.1 million acres of federal lands administered by the Fairbanks District Office in the Kobuk area and the entire Seward Peninsula.

Public scoping meetings for an Environmental Impact Study were held in spring of 2004 to determine what the public's thoughts are on

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Photo submitted by Sharla Pate

RETIRING— Staff members, past and present, gathered together to honor AMCC superintendent Rita Anderson at her retirement party on October 13. During her 20 years at AMCC, Rita worked as a correctional officer, shift supervising sergeant, probation officer, assistant superintendent and superintendent. Rita and her husband Rudy will retire to northern Minnesota. Happy retirement Rita!

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Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

DUST— Dust trails behind a truck on the Nome-Council Highway at the Safety Bridge in this photograph taken in the summer. Camp owners along the highway and other Nome residents have raised concerns about dust being kicked up by the proposed truck haul traffic from Big Hurrah to Rock Creek. A DEC air quality permit pending for Alaska Gold's Rock Creek mine does not address the dust issue on public roads.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 47 NOVEMBER 23, 2006

Nome residents sue Army Corps of Engineers over Rock Creek permit

By Diana Haecker

Nome residents, dissatisfied by the lack of a meaningful environmental review in connection with a wetland permit issued for the Rock Creek mine near Nome, filed a civil suit last week at Federal Court in Anchorage.

The defendant is the Army Corps of Engineers. The mine's owner, Alaska Gold, and its Canadian parent company, NovaGold, are not named as defendants.

Trustees for Alaska, a public interest law firm in Anchorage, rep-

resents three Nome residents, Sue Steinacher, Austin Ahmasuk and Jana Varrati, as well the Nome-based citizen group "Bering Strait Citizens for Responsible Resource Development," in the lawsuit.

The plaintiffs allege that the Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit for NovaGold's Rock Creek mine and mill project in violation of National Environmental Policy Act procedures, the Clean Water Act and the National Historic

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DEC air quality permit skirts road dust issue

By Diana Haecker

The deadline for the public comment period on the air quality control permit for Alaska Gold's Rock Creek mine and mill complex ended on Monday, November 20, without addressing the air quality issues related to mine truck traffic on public roads.

The permit is required to implement the federal Clean Air Act and is handed out by the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation. The permit would

allow the gold company construction and operation of the mine and operation of rock crushers at the mine complex.

The permit only addressed air quality issues related to emissions from combustion engines, heating systems, rock crushers and haul traffic at the mine site.

However, the permit does not address fugitive dust created by the proposed truck traffic of ore from

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Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

SERVE— Junior high volleyball player Rachel Stiles showed her graceful serve during last Saturday's final volleyball game of the season at Nome-Beltz High School against the Kotzebue Huskies. (See story inside.)



Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

INCREDIBLE HULK — Stephan Anderson spent last Saturday fishing for tomcod at the Snake River mouth in the Nome harbor. Anderson was going to bring them home to his grandmother.

Muskoxen managers say increase hunt

By Sandra L. Medearis

The number of stocky long-haired animals with the short legs and neck with the big hump hunched over the big head with the curving horns is increasing on the Seward Peninsula. The muskoxen, going home in tourists' cameras and on sleds with subsistence hunters have reached a population of about 2500 according to a state Fish and Game census.

A herd of thinkers representing

the best interests of muskoxen as a game resource on the Seward Peninsula gathered in a two-day meeting last week to reach consensus on a new number of muskoxen reasonably necessary for subsistence harvest (in agency jargon, ANS). Biologists from the state Dept. of Fish and Game will forward this number to the state Board of Game to consider in changing hunting rules on the arctic and western regions of the state when it

meets in 2007. The Seward Peninsula Muskoxen Cooperators said the state should increase the current 100 animals (set in 1998) to 240 -260 allowed for the cooking pots based on the increased population.

Federal and state managers with local subsistence use representatives, with census figures and biologists' advice hashed out the common interest Nov. 15 and 16: how

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•Lawsuit

continued from page 1

Preservation Act.

"The Corps did not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to investigate the impacts on human health or the environment, and permitted the destruction of over 400 acres of wetlands without considering alternatives," explained Trustees lawyer Vicki Clark.

"The Corps violated its mandatory duties under the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and their implementing regulations by designating wetlands for destruction despite the availability of practicable alternatives with fewer adverse effects on the environment and by failing to analyze reasonable and practicable alternatives that would avoid or minimize wetland destruction," reads the 28-page complaint document.

"In addition, instead of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to fully review the environmental impacts from and alternatives to the wetlands destruction, as required by NEPA and its implementing regulations, the Corps prepared only a minimal Environmental Assessment, which failed to comply with the strict requirements of NEPA," says the complaint.

The plaintiffs say the Corps' permit is unlawful, should be revoked and ask the court to rule on further action as well as to issue an immediate and permanent injunction "prohibiting AGC from undertaking any construction activities resulting in the discharge of any dredged or fill material into any wetlands associated with the Rock Creek Mine Project until a valid permit is issued," reads the complaint.

The plaintiffs Austin Ahmasuk, Sue Steinacher and Jana Varrati also challenge the Corps' failure to consult with local tribes under the National Historic Preservation Act.

"Bering Strait Citizens also challenge, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Corps' failure to consult with Nome Eskimo Community, the Village of Solomon, King Island Native Community, or any other federally-recognized Indian Tribe in the

Nome area, regarding the identification of historic and cultural properties in the area and the potential impacts from the Rock Creek Mine Project," reads the complaint document.

Clark said the lawsuit also seeks a preliminary injunction to stop construction of the Rock Creek mine and mill complex currently underway until the court makes a decision.

Sue Steinacher said that she felt blind-sided by the permitting process. "The public meeting in June was the first time most of us heard about anything about the mine's plans for using cyanide, but instead of it being the beginning of a meaningful public process, it was nearly the end."

A public hearing was held on June 26, a week before the deadline of the public comment period on a myriad of permits involving several Alaska State departments. The deadline for Army Corps of Engineer permit was on July 20.

In an interview with *The Nome Nugget*, Steinacher stressed that her main concern was that the public review process was compromised. "This lawsuit is not about whether or not we're in favor of the mine," Steinacher said. "It's about whether or not the people of Nome deserve an Environmental Impact Statement."

Steinacher said that an EIS would do a much more thorough analysis of questions the public posed in connection with the mining project and that the public would have more opportunity to provide input.

Steinacher also expressed her concern that the state does not provide the public with balanced information. "One of the first acts of the Murkowski administration was to disband the Habitat Division of Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This eliminated the checks and balances that used to exist between the state department that promotes natural resource development and the state department that protects natural resources," said Steinacher.

The Alaska Department of



Photo by Diana Haecker

ROCK CREEK MINE— Construction at the Rock Creek mine and mill site is underway as winter temperatures plunge to the single digits in the Snake River Valley.

Natural Resources permitted the mine's reclamation plan, a fish habitat permit, six temporary water use permits and reviewed consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Plan, but did not consult ADF&G on wildlife and habitat issues affected by the mining project. By law, no consultation is required.

Plaintiff Ahmasuk expressed concern about the adverse impacts of the mine on subsistence practices. "Healthy fish and wildlife, such as the salmon and moose and berries with which we fill our freezers, will be impacted by the toxic chemicals generated by the mine," Ahmasuk said. "An Environmental Impact Statement would give all of us the opportunity to evaluate the risks this mine poses to our community."

In an interview with *The Nome Nugget*, Ahmasuk said, "When the Corps published their environmental assessment decision they indicated that there was overwhelming

public support for the project based on one meeting and that only one person expressed concerns. If there would've been adequate public notice, there would have been public comment generated, as there are public comments now. If they would've tested the assumptions in the company-submitted EID, the public would have known more and had something to comment on."

Ahmasuk said that there are a number of concerns raised regarding the health of the human environment and the natural environment and that these concerns should have triggered an EIS.

In addition, Ahmasuk said the Corps did not consult with local tribes as required by law. "Executive Order 13175 lays out very specifically how tribal consultation has to occur," Ahmasuk said, "The Corps didn't follow these steps to create a meaningful dialogue."

Ahmasuk added that the Corps

came to the wrong conclusion that there was no public concern. He said that his intention with the lawsuit is to address the Corps' flawed decision making process. "It just didn't feel right," said Ahmasuk. "Citizens have every right to question the government's decisions. I may be wrong, but I have the right to take the issue before a judge in a court of law to decide."

Jana Varrati is outraged about the lack of an EIS and said, "The Corps' job is to make sure these projects have adequate environmental analysis, yet it appears the Corps is shirking its responsibility."

During a road dedication ceremony to officially open the newly built Glacier Creek spur road in July, Governor Frank Murkowski faced a group of Nomeites with protest signs asking for an EIS. The \$8 million road was the first state-sponsored access way to be built and finished.

continued on page 7



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Photo by Diana Haecker

SEA ICE FORMING— Last week sea ice made its first appearance of the season in front of Nome and Sledge Island, giving gulls a rocky place to rest.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 48 NOVEMBER 30, 2006

Alaska Gold intervenes in lawsuit against Army

By Diana Haecker

Citing an interest in the outcome of a civil lawsuit pending against the Army Corps of Engineers over the 404 wetlands permit issued to the Rock Creek mine, Alaska Gold let the Federal District Court in Anchorage know of its intentions to intervene.

"Alaska Gold as the permittee, has a significant and material interest in the permit that is the subject of this action," say court papers. "If the relief sought by the Plaintiffs is granted, Alaska Gold's interest will

unquestionably be severely impaired, and the named Defendants [Army Corps of Engineers] concur that they cannot adequately defend Alaska Gold's interest."

Three Nome residents, Jana Varrati, Sue Steinacher and Austin Ahmasuk, and a watchdog group called "Bering Strait Citizens for Responsible Resource Development," filed a lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers on November 8 in the

continued on page 4

City of Nome settles lawsuits over Owens, NPD misconduct

By Diana Haecker

Almost a year after a Kotzebue jury convicted former Nome police officer Matthew Owens of the murder of 19-year-old Sonya Ivanoff, the City of Nome settled the remaining civil lawsuits with three women and a man over acts committed by Owens. According to a source, the four lawsuits were settled for a total of \$270,000.

The lawsuits claimed the City of Nome was negligent in hiring,

supervising and retaining Owens.

"The Nome Police Department knew of reports that Owens cruised the streets of Nome at night in uniform and in his patrol car, picking up young women for unauthorized 'ride-alongs' and making unauthorized sexual advances on them," said a press release from the plaintiff's lawyer, Myron Angstman.

The civil suits were filed in State Court in Nome.

continued on page 3



Photo by Diana Haecker

SKATING FUN — Skating and having fun on the frozen dredge pond at Swanberg Dredge was Autumn Falls with her dog Rembrandt last week. Falls said she grew up skating and took advantage of the smooth surface of the ice to make a few turns with her amazingly sure-footed puppy.

Citizens request elimination of trapping

By Tara McCaw

At Monday's City Council Meeting, Nome citizens Diana Adams, Chrystie Salesky and Charlotte Mattheis requested that the Common Council take action to prevent the snaring and trapping of animals inside city limits. The women shared a recent story about Mattheis' dog getting caught in a snare hidden in brush near a dog mushing trail. Later, in the Councilmen Comments segment of the meeting, Council members Stan Anderson and Mary Knodel requested that the city draft an ordinance ready for first reading at the next City Council meeting concerning trapping.

ing trapping.

Other citizens that spoke during the Citizens Requests and Grievances portion of the meeting included Scot Henderson of Bonanza Fuel, Tim Smith of Nome Fishermen's Association, and Mitch Erickson of the Nome Chamber of Commerce. Henderson distributed a series of comments outlining his argument for why the Common Council should eliminate the Personal Property Tax on Inventory for local businesses. This issue and Henderson's comments will be further addressed at City of Nome working session scheduled for Wednesday, November 29.

Smith requested documents from the city to supplement his request to NSEDC for funding for the Nome Fishermen's Association Hatchery and Salmon Lake Fertilization Project. Erickson spoke briefly of a follow-up to last April's Energy Summit. Former Nomeite Phil Kaluza of Alaska Building Science Network is tentatively scheduled to speak on December 11. Information on the time and place will be coming in the near future.

In terms of unfinished business, two ordinances went through second reading, public hearing and final passage. The first was an ordinance

continued on page 3



Photo by Nancy McGuire

DEAR SANTA — Gabrielle Mosteller, 5, tells Santa Claus what is on her "I've been a good girl wish list." Santa made a special trip from his workshop at the North Pole to visit youngsters at the Nome PreSchool Christmas Crafts Fair in Nome on Saturday.

Wade Hampton voters given erroneous ballots

By Tara McCaw

During the November 7 general election, citizens from eight villages in the Wade Hampton Census Area voted on the retention of judges who are not in their judicial district. Ballots in the recent election did not reflect the changes made by a 2002 Alaska State Legislature House Bill that officially changed the boundaries of the 4th and 2nd judicial districts. Since Statehood, Wade Hampton was included in the Second Judicial District with Nome. After the passing of the 2002 bill, the new boundaries moved Wade Hampton to the 4th Judicial District,

which includes Bethel.

In the 2006 election, Judge Ben Esch and Judge Richard Erlich, both of the Second Judicial District, were on ballots in Alakanuk, Chevak, Emmonak, Mountain Village, Pilot Station, St. Mary's, Scammon Bay and Kotlik. This gave voters from these villages the opportunity to have a say in the retention of these two judges who they will never see in court. The Wade Hampton voters did not have the opportunity to vote for or against judges from the 4th Judicial District who will actually serve them.

In 2002, Representative Mary

Kapsner of the Alaska State Legislature sponsored a cleanup bill to realign state judicial districts. Before 2002, the majority of people in the Wade Hampton Census Area, located along the coast and Yukon River, were already traveling to Bethel in the Fourth Judicial District for hearings or jury duty, even through this was not their official judicial district. According to Kapsner, Alaska judicial boundaries were not altered over time to reflect changing communication and commerce systems. "Bethel is the trans-

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•Alaska Gold

continued from page 1

Anchorage District Court. The lawsuit alleges that the Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit for Alaska Gold's Rock Creek mine and mill project in violation of National Environmental Policy Act procedures, the Clean Water Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

The lawsuit seeks to suspend the validity of the 404 wetlands permit until the court determines whether or not the Army Corps of Engineers violated federal laws in giving the green light to Alaska Gold's project. The plaintiff's lawyer, Vicki Clark with the Trustees for Alaska, also sought a preliminary injunction, meaning to halt construction at the mine site until the court has made a ruling.

The intervention document filed by Alaska Gold's lawyer Michael Grisham with Dorsey & Whitney LLP in Anchorage, said that Alaska Gold has already dredged and filled beyond repair the majority of the wetlands at issue.

Vice president of NovaGold Alaska Inc./ Alaska Gold Company, and general manager of the Rock Creek mine, Doug Nicholson argued in an affidavit that Alaska Gold had already invested almost \$64 million in the development and exploration of Rock Creek and Big Hurrah. The affidavit said that Alaska Gold is going to spend an anticipated \$10.4 million in payroll and \$20.6 million in goods and

services.

Regarding employees, Nicholson stated that Alaska Gold had hired 24 people since the permits were issued, bringing up the total number to 31 staff. "Of these are 80 percent local, 50 percent are Native American, and 30 percent are shareholders in the Bering Straits and Sitnasauk Native Corporations." [Sitnasuak misspelled consistently in Alaska Gold's court documents, Ed.]

Nicholson argued that Alaska Gold had spent three years to identify, mitigate and remediate the environmental impacts of the project and that state and federal regulatory bodies were actively involved in the planning process and "not only knew of Alaska Gold's plans but also had input into them."

Mostly, however, Nicholson argues that Alaska Gold has an immense interest in the lawsuit because of money and resources already allocated to the project. According to court papers, Alaska Gold has spent or committed to spend approximately \$52.9 million of a total project capital cost of \$77 million. Construction costs are listed as \$29.3 million.

"The project, which is located on privately-owned land, is a \$77 million investment in the economically deprived Seward Peninsula region," says Alaska Gold's motion. "The project's need for labor and logistical support will thus provide significant employment and business

opportunities to a region plagued by high jobless rates and limited opportunity.

"We were aware that there were some individuals opposed to the project," Nicholson wrote. "If the requested injunction is issued, Alaska Gold will suffer catastrophic business losses, and will need to lay

off almost all of the 67 employees under existing or pending contracts, as well as forego hiring the remaining employees.

Asked if the pending lawsuit somehow influences Barrick's interest in NovaGold, Barrick Gold's vice president Vince Borg told *The Nome Nugget*, "This highlights in

our view the risks and uncertainties involved in permitting and constructing mines today. There are inevitably these kind of developments that we do not believe that NovaGold management has accounted for in their aggressive timetables."

•Council

continued from page 3

"Risk Ranking and Risk Reduction Process and the Moonlight Springs Protection Ordinance Database Dated June 26, 2006 as the City of Nome's Best Management Practices for the protection of the municipal water supply in the Moonlight Wells Protection Area.

The second was a resolution certifying that the municipality did suffer significant effects during the program base year from fisheries business activities that occurred within the City of Nome Fisheries Management Area.


The final two resolutions supported the Nome Bypass Improvement Project and the Nome Harbor Project as well as applications to the Denali Commission for funding for those two projects.

The final issue of new business on the agenda was a facility reservation fee waiver for the Mini Convention Center during the Iron Dog on February 14, 2007.

In the City Manager's report, Romenesko reminded the public that there is a "process to the madness" in terms of snow removal: first bus routes are cleared, afterwards snow is removed from one-way streets and two-way streets, and then finally cleanup takes place. He mentioned that there is a city parking issue and reminds citi-

zens to move their cars out of the public right-away to avoid fines. He also thanked the Public Works Committee for putting up the fence around the ice skating rink.

During the Mayor's report, Mayor Denise Michels mentioned that Nome may hold a Inaugural Ball for newly elected Governor Palin. If so, there will be future fund-raising to finance the event, and the Common Council may be asked to wave Nome Recreation Center fees.




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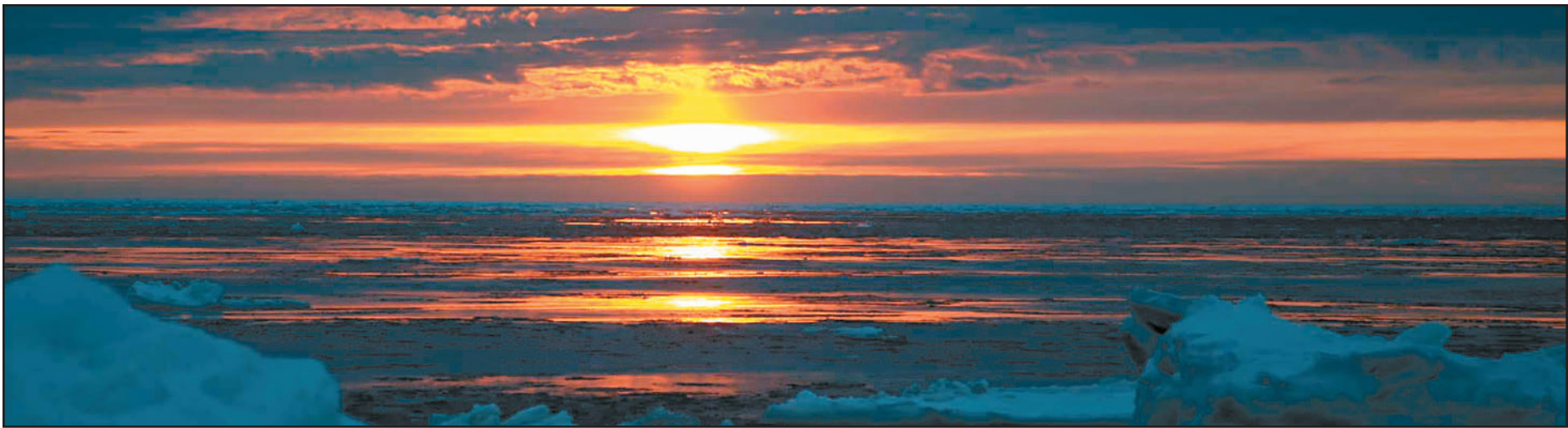


Photo by Peggy Fagerstrom

SOUTHERN SUNSET — On Sunday afternoon, the sun sinks slowly over the horizon into the Bering Sea.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 49 DECEMBER 7, 2006

City to hold new NSEDC election

By Tara McCaw

Almost two months have passed since Adem Boeckmann won the popular vote for NSEDC representative, and now NSEDC is asking the City of Nome to hold a new election without Boeckmann's candidacy. Even though Boeckmann earned 260 votes, or 35.14 percent of the total 740 votes, controversy surrounded his victory. Boeckmann does not reside within official Nome city limits, and there were conflicting opinions over whether this fact affected his eligibility to run in the election.

According to Boeckmann, well before the election, he questioned the NSEDC board about whether or

not he could hold the position of Nome Representative, and an NSEDC attorney told him that it would be permissible.

However, according to a court judgement from a 1995 lawsuit between Tim Smith and NSEDC, the elections for representatives are to be held at regular municipal elections. According to Smith, one of the reasons for the lawsuit was the lack of clear election rules in the past. By holding NSEDC representative elections with municipal elections, they would have structure. "Open and fair elections are an important part of democracy. You can't make up the rules for the elec-

continued on page 4

Court grants Alaska Gold intervention in lawsuit

By Diana Haecker

U.S. District Court Judge Ralph Beistline last Friday granted Alaska Gold Company unlimited intervention in a pending civil lawsuit of Nome residents against the Army Corps of Engineers.

Plaintiffs Jana Varrati, Sue Steinacher and Austin Ahmasuk, and a Nome group called "Bering Strait Citizens for Responsible Resource Development" sued the Army Corps of Engineers over an issued wetlands permit for the Rock Creek mine near Nome.

The lawsuit alleges that the Corps violated the Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act

procedures and the National Historic Preservation Act.

"Upon due consideration, and for good cause shown, the Alaska Gold Company's motion to intervene is hereby granted," wrote Beistline in his ruling.

Alaska Gold cited an interest in the outcome of the lawsuit as the Corps' admitted it could not adequately defend AGC's interest.

With Alaska Gold now being a player in the lawsuit, the court received AGC's answer to the plaintiff's complaint. The Corps filed a motion asking for more time to file their opposition brief beyond the

continued on page 4



Photo by Diana Haecker

YUMMY — Noah Thompson thoroughly enjoyed the goodies, candies and sugar cotton during last Saturday's Fireman's Carnival at the Rec Center. The Fireman's Carnival is the annual fundraising event for the local volunteer Fire Department, to perform crucial emergency response services to the community. Again, it was a great success as the Rec Center was bursting at the seams with people enjoying fun and games.

Sales tax revenues up, council considers inventory tax alternatives

By Laurie Mc Nicholas

In light of projected city sales tax increases this fiscal year discussed at a Nome Common Council work session Nov. 29, a majority of members seemed inclined to eliminate the personal property tax on business inventory held for resale. City administrators presented the Council with alternative proposed ordinances for either a temporary inventory tax exemption or elimination of the tax.

City Manager Randy Romenesko reported that local

sales are running \$1.5 million ahead of last year at this time and noted that if the trend continues through the year, sales will total \$5 million more than last year, generating an increase of \$250,000 in sales tax revenues. Last year's tax exemption on \$16.7 million worth of business inventory cost the City \$184,000 in revenues, he said.

Tom Sparks told the Council that Bonanza Fuel's contract to provide fuel for Alaska Gold mining opera-

continued on page 4

Winter storm hits Nome; downs phone lines and cables

By Diana Haecker

One winter storm after the other swept through the region since Sunday, November 26, dumping lots of snow on the ground as strong winds wreaked havoc with phone cables and the utilities.

Jerry Steiger, meteorologist with the Nome office of the National Weather Service said that Nome saw 7.5 inches of snowfall as the first significant snowstorm moved through the region on November 26 and 27. The



AP Photo/Al Grillo

ALASKA GOVERNOR — Sarah Palin, left, is sworn in as Alaska governor by Superior Court Judge Niesje Steinkruger as Palin's husband, Todd, center, holds the Bible during an inauguration ceremony in Fairbanks on Monday, December 4.

•NSEDC

continued from page 1

tion after the election,” said Smith.

Louie Green, Jr. agrees with Smith that conducting the NSEDC representative elections as municipal elections ensures that Nome procedure is consistent with other NSEDC communities. Green, who earned the second highest amount of votes in this October’s election, believes that following rules for municipal elections is the only way the election can have accountability.

Some people question, however, if indeed the NSEDC election, while run by the city, had all the same rules as a city election.

The Community Development Quota is a federal program open to all communities located within 50 nautical miles of the Bering Sea according to federal law. NSEDC President Eugene Asisick was under the impression that since CDQ is a federal program, Boeckmann would be eligible to run because he is eligible to vote in federal elections even though he is not eligible to vote in city elections.

Boeckmann’s candidacy was questioned early in the election but NSEDC lawyers told Nome City Clerk Leslee Wessel to leave him on the ballot. After Boeckmann won the popular vote, Green approached the City Council during the public grievances period of the Nome Common Council and sited the 1995 lawsuit.

There was no formal announcement of an election winner, though, according to Asisick, “the people have chosen their representative.”

At the NSEDC Board of Directors meeting on November 29, board members adopted the following recommendations set forth by the NSEDC Bylaws, Rules and Regulations Committee as decided in accordance with NSEDC attorneys: “[We] request the City of Nome to set aside the results of the October 3 election for NSEDC member representative and set a date for a special election. The committee notes that the voter and candidate eligibility requirements applied during the regular election were not consistent with established corporate policy and practices with respect to voter and candidate eligibility requirements.

“[We] instruct the Nome City Clerk to conduct a special election under the rules and procedures that applied to elections in prior years, including limiting eligibility either to vote or to run for the office to persons who are residents of Nome and eligible to vote in municipal elections. The Committee believes that any changes to the election procedure should not apply retroactively.”

Though frustrated that he will not be serving as Nome’s representative, Boeckmann does not hold a grudge against NSEDC. “I feel that the NSEDC board has done exactly what they had to in the circumstance. I know several of the board members like brothers and I know they have done right. If people are happy about the way things turned out they should thank Tim Smith and Louie Green, Jr. for getting the election thrown out,” said Boeckmann. He continued, “I hope to find another way to help fisheries in the region in the future.”

At this time NSEDC has not clarified who exactly will be running in the make-up election or when it will be held.

•Alaska Gold

continued from page 1

original December 1 deadline. The opposition brief on the issue of the preliminary injunction motion is now due on December 11. The preliminary injunction means that the plaintiffs seek to halt construction at the Rock Creek mine and further destruction of the wetlands at the heart of the lawsuit until the judge makes a final ruling.

Rick Van Nieuwenhuysen, president and CEO of NovaGold, the Canadian parent company of Alaska Gold Company, said, “Clearly we have a lot at stake here. We have invested millions of dollars to date on exploration and engineering studies, including a huge amount on studying how best to minimize the environmental impacts of our operations.

“We started this process several years ago and have consistently shared our plans with the residents of Nome with community meetings and regular publications in *The Nome Nugget* with the Bucket Line articles.”

In addition, Doug Nicholson and Warren Woods have an open-door policy and have always been willing to discuss anyone’s specific concerns.

“Quite honestly, I think Nome also has a lot at stake as well – we have over 60 people employed or about to be employed – most from Nome and the surrounding communities.

“We have also used a lot of local suppliers and contractors to complete the work we have to date. All that would have to stop if the few local people and outside environmental groups who oppose the project are successful at getting their Injunction.

“There is a well-defined process to follow and I believe that the Corp. of Engineers, the State of Alaska and NovaGold followed that

•Council

continued from page 1

tions would alone generate enough sales tax revenues to make up for the \$184,000 the City could have collected on business inventories. “Really, the sales tax increase is a huge thing,” he added.

Council members disagreed on whether to renew a one percent exemption of the sales tax for purchasers of electric, water, sewer and landfill services. The exemption, which ended last month, has cost the city \$66,000 in revenues, Romenesko said. Councilman Jerald Brown questioned whether the exemption is useful, noting that it had reduced his monthly utility bill by only a dollar or so.

Councilman Stan Anderson replied that those who do not have high incomes may appreciate the savings and that the exemption has value as a gesture.

At the end of the work session the question of how to spend the City’s \$100,000 Community Benefit Share from Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation remained open.

Council members reached consensus on refunding of school bonds after Romenesko assured them that the move would save the City about \$65,000.

Nome mayor will serve on Palin’s transition team

By Diana Haecker

Governor-elect Sarah Palin last week announced Nome Mayor Denise Michels as part of her transition team to serve as an advisory team leader for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Michels told *The Nome Nugget*, “I feel very honored to be chosen as part of the transition team, and I will do whatever I can do to help her out.”

Michels said she received a call from Palin’s office on Monday, November 27, and asked her if she wanted to be part of the transition team. Michels accepted. The transition advisory team consists of 18 leaders altogether, assessing the functionality, strengths and weaknesses of all state departments and to make recommendations to Palin. Kotzebue’s Paulette Schuerch was named team leader for the Governor’s office.

Michels cited the historical relationship Nome, and rural Alaska in general, has with the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. “Going back to the Territorial Guard, Nome had and still has an active longstanding relationship with the military. We have the armory here, a very successful JROTC program, the Steward River National Guard shooting range and, due to our frequent storms, constant contact with the Department,” Michels said.

In an effort to smooth the transition from the outgoing Murkowski administration to the new Palin/Parnell administration, Palin actively seeks input not only from the named team leaders, but also from the public across Alaska.

On the state’s website www.gov.state.ak.us/govelect/ Palin solicits comments from the public, saying, “I will always be a Governor of the people. In order to do that, I need your help, your guidance and your suggestions. Please take the time to give our transition teams your written suggestions and help make our new administration a success.”

Palin announced last week the first three members of her cabinet. Former Anchorage Police Chief Walt Monegan will serve as Department of Public Safety Commissioner, longtime corrections superintendent Joe Schmidt was named Commissioner of the Department of Corrections and former DNR Deputy Commissioner Marty Rutherford will take over the top job at the Department of Natural Resources and will serve as interim Commissioner.

process. It seems a bit odd to me that three months after the permits were granted that these outside interests have suddenly shown an interest in the project and the process.”



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Photo by Nickolai Ivanoff

ICE FLOES — Last week ice floes were sheltered from howling offshore winds off Cape Nome.

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VOLUME CVI NO. 50 DECEMBER 14, 2006



AP Photo/Al Grillo

PINNED — Nome's Chase Madden (top) works against Barrow's Sigmond Patterson during a consolation round in the 130-pound class of the 1, 2, 3A state wrestling championships in Wasilla last Saturday.

Trappers voice opposition to city's proposed ordinance to ban snares and traps

By Tara McCaw

The Citizens Requests and Grievances portion of Monday evening's Nome Common Council meeting heated up when local trappers voiced their disagreements with the proposed ordinance to ban snares and traps within city limits.

Cari Miller referred to the ordinance as a knee-jerk reaction by the common council in response to an emotionally charged story about a dog getting caught in a snare. She and others present discussed how loose pets getting caught in traps can be a good thing when there is no other way to detain the animals. Miller, a wife and mother of local trappers, mentioned that she moved to Alaska to get away from liberal laws that do not let people choose the way that they live. She sees trapping as an important part of the history of Nome that is being threatened by "loud, liberal-minded bullies" like those at the local newspaper. Miller lives outside of the city limits.

According to Matt Culley, a local trapper, without trapping within city limits there will be an increase in the local fox population which could lead to a disease problem.

"Rabies is a density disease," said Culley, who brought a number of fox hides with him to the meeting to show the high number of foxes that he caught since November within city limits. He pointed out that the traps he uses are not intended to break animal legs and will not cause any serious damage to any dogs that accidentally get caught in them.

Mike Quinn discussed three tangible benefits to trapping within city limits: disease control, population monitoring, and the assistance of Animal Control. He sees trapping as a way for the Department of Fish and Game to gauge the size of the fox populations in the Nome area. He considers loose, wild dogs in city limits a greater threat to Nome children than the possibility of getting caught in snares. According to Quinn, the city council's involvement in this issue is a waste of city funds. He believes that since mushers and trappers need to get along without city involvement outside of city limits, the two groups should be able to do the same inside Nome boundaries.

Diana Adams spoke in favor of the passing of the ordinance, saying that she and most Nomeites are not

against trapping in general; they just do not want the practice to be done within city limits.

After all interested parties present discussed their opinion of the trapping ordinance, Doug Nicholson of Alaska Gold gave an update to the Common Council. He spoke about how a long delay in reinstating the Army Corps of Engineers permit could lead to the loss of the new local jobs created at the gold mine.

During the communications portion of the meeting, Council Member Stan Andersen asked about the next steps the city is going to take in response to a letter from NSEDC requesting that the City hold another election for the 2006 NSEDC Nome member representative. City Clerk Leslee Wessel said that she was looking into the issue.

Next, council members tackled the unfinished business of spending the \$100,000 NSEDC Community Benefit Share. The common council voted to use the money to change the Nome public pool filtration system from chlorine to salt.

In new business, three ordinances were passed through second reading, public hearing and final pas-

continued on page 4

Corps suspends permit for Rock Creek mine

By Diana Haecker

The Army Corps of Engineers suspended a permit issued for Alaska Gold Company's Rock Creek mine and imposed an immediate halt to further destruction of wetlands within the Corps jurisdiction.

"I have determined that the public interest requires this suspension in order to revisit, reconsider and clarify the Department of the Army's permit evaluation and decision document (PEDD) for the permit and the PEDD's underlying analysis," wrote District Commander Colonel Kevin Wilson in a notice letter to AGC's Vice

President Douglas Nicholson.

The suspension was effective on December 6 and came as a reaction to a civil lawsuit challenging the public process that led up to the Corps' issuance of the 404 wetlands permit for the Rock Creek mine.

The lawsuit

"This action was taken in response to a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court by the Trustees for Alaska and the Western Mining Action Project," said a press release issued by the Corps.

Three Nome residents, Jana Varrati, Sue Steinacher and Austin Ahmasuk, and a Nome-based

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Barrick's hostile takeover bid comes to an end

By Diana Haecker

A four-month bitter battle between gold mining giant Barrick Gold Corp. and junior gold producer NovaGold Resources Inc. came to an end last week when Barrick's \$1.71 billion bid expired on December 6.

NovaGold management rejected the offer for the last time and so did their shareholders, not caving in to tender their shares for the bidding price of \$16 apiece. The offer was too low, maintained NovaGold

management throughout the price war; fair and final, was Barrick's response.

Barrick raised its bid once from the initial \$14.50 offer to \$16.

By the end of December 6, Barrick admitted defeat, as it had acquired only 13.6 million shares of NovaGold, instead of the hoped-for majority of shares. A buy out would have put Barrick in control over two major gold prospects currently in NovaGold's development pipeline,

continued on page 4



Photo by Diana Haecker

HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD BOY?— Upon an affirmative answer, Santa Claus handed out a peppermint candy cane to Bubba McDaniel, 8, during last week's Christmas Extravaganza at Old St. Joe's Hall.



continued from page 1

“NovaGold is committed to building a showcase mine that will operate with the utmost respect for the environment and the communi-

Nicholson said that one quarter of the wetlands, which have not yet been disturbed, are located at the proposed tailings storage facility site and the north waste rock dump site. He said that within a month,



Co-plaintiff Sue Steinacher hopes

Nome residents have asked on numerous occasions for an Environmental Impact Statement to be done.

the hotel
Captain Cook

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